

Let's get a bite to eat
And let's make sure it's for a
good cause like AEF or WAR.
page 19

Somewhere between Castro St.
and Fidel Castro is Lupita Castro.
An interview with a Cuban lesbian.
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Not much queer
At the 42nd San Francisco
International Film Festival.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 16 • 22 April 1999

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Serbs demonize gays

by Ron Bell, News editor,
Melbourne Star Observer

Yugoslav television is demonizing Western leaders by accusing them of being gay, according to a leading gay rights advocate in Belgrade. Dusan Maljkovic, a 23-year-old openly gay student, journalist, and gay rights advocate living in the Yugoslav capital, said the Serbian media is now targeting gay people at unprecedented levels.

"The Serbian media accused the leaders of the West to be gay or lesbian, and presented it as a 'sexual perversion' and 'mental disorder,' so all our efforts to change the opinion of the Serbian population towards accepting homosexuality as a normal aspect of sexuality are now destroyed," Maljkovic said.

According to Maljkovic, the Serbian government often uses the 'gay card' to slur political opponents. "In the propaganda war among the republics of the former Yugoslavia, the Serbian side used homosexuality for the making of the Western republic of former Yugoslavia. For example, stories on the alleged homosexuality of Slovenian prime minister Janez Drnovsek were published very often," he said.

Maljkovic, who is on the executive committee of the Campaign Against Homophobia, worries that gays and lesbians are now in more danger than ever as a result of the war.

"Since the most radical national homogenization of Serbia is taking place, anyone that doesn't fit the standard model of the strong man defending his native land, determined to fight for it until the last drop of blood, is a possible victim of discrimination, ranging from verbal insults to physical violence and even murder," he said. He fears that things will only get worse. "We expect a greater discrimination after the war, and the banning of all gay activism."

While legislation outlawing homosexual acts was repealed in 1994, much of Serbia remains highly homophobic. According to Maljkovic, there are few openly gay Serbians because "gay people here are discriminated on all levels of society."

Employment discrimination is also a paramount concern: "People can be fired because it is found out that they are gay, usually with some other explanation." According to a report issued by the Campaign Against Homophobia, Serbian police stations "hold files on gays and lesbians, with their photographs and fingerprints," and often use "illegal methods such as phone tapping, interception of mail, etc. to compile lists of suspected homosexuals."



Victor: Victoria Schneider

SF TG wins \$755K in strip search suit

by Cynthia Laird

A federal jury in San Francisco awarded \$750,000 in damages Friday, April 16 to a post-operative transgender woman who sued the city, the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, and two deputies saying she was illegally strip searched following a prostitution arrest in

June 1996. The jury also found against sheriff's Deputy Fred Lew and awarded \$5,000 in punitive damages during the penalty phase of the trial Monday, April 19.

The jury did not find against the other deputy, Kirk Fowles.

The plaintiff, Victoria Schneider, "was completely vindicated," said her attorney Nanci Clarence, who filed the suit alleging Schneider's civil rights had been violated when she was strip searched on orders from Lew to confirm her gender.

"It's a great message," Clarence told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It says to us the jury completely believed Victoria's account of that night."

Of the punitive damages against Lew, Clarence said, "It sends a message to him to deter him from reckless disregard of her rights."

The weeklong trial that started last Monday, April 12, was held in U.S. District Court before federal Judge Maxine M. Chesney. The jury of four women and three men deliberated approximately two hours following testimony, Clarence said.

Schneider was elated following the decision. "I'm grateful somebody believed me," she told the *B.A.R.*

Schneider and Clarence said they interviewed several jurors after the verdict and they were told the jurors immediately found Schneider was unlawfully strip searched. "Three women jurors wholeheartedly believed me," Schneider said.

"They [jurors] told us they found the deputies' conduct frightening," Clarence said, adding that jurors in federal cases are selected from throughout the northern part of the state and not just from San Francisco.

Clarence said she expects the city to appeal the decision. "I have no doubt they'll appeal. They just don't get it; the jury has spoken."

Pat Mahoney, chief trial deputy with the City Attorney's office, told the *B.A.R.* that the city plans to file post-trial motions "to address our concerns with the size of the verdict, which we believe was caused by errors in directions to the jurors." He also said under the government code, the city has the discretion to pay the \$5,000 judgment against Lew,

page 20 ►

Wheels of Fortune, part 1: AIDS Riders gear up for controversy

by Jim Provenzano

They are described as heroes, athletes making a difference, going the long haul, testing their endurance, and all for a cause.

The brochure displays a picture-perfect array of diversity - gay men, African-American grandmothers, straight Latinas, even a handicapped wheelchair rider.

It is, of course, the AIDS Ride, or to use the full trademark-filled moniker, Tanqueray™ California AIDS Ride™ 6.

Some who have lost family members to AIDS, like Liliana Peñeranda, are prominently featured in the AIDS Ride's brochure. Her brother, Nestor, died in 1996. She has participated in AIDS Rides in his memory.

Many like her see the AIDS Ride as a physical way of proving their active participation in an event "to undergo a physical challenge."

The brochure claims 25,000 people have participated in the nationwide events, rais-

ing \$55 million. On another page, though, 33,000 riders are credited with raising \$90 million.

But the net profits are much lower, and in almost half a dozen events over the past two years, while numbers are tossed around, one fact remains clear: most of the proceeds from these enormous bicycling events never go to AIDS charities.

Despite this, thousands of people regularly participate, and thousands more donate money and volunteer, some for years. These incredibly complex events have been produced in cities throughout America.

But not without a few snafus. On his website journal recounting his trek, Todd Davis, a Boston-New York rider, described how riders were treated in 1995 as they arrived in Manhattan.

"The first 200 riders in were supposed to cross the street, ride up the pier and wave," he wrote. "The person pointing us where to go got confused. She waved us out onto the wrong pier. It was lined with garbage trucks."

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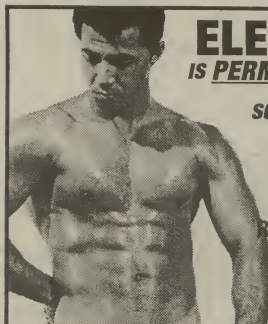


LA mayor Richard Riordan (left) shakes Dan Pallotta's hand after the 1996 AIDS Ride.

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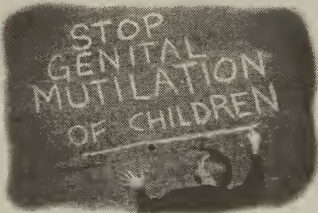
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Under a different roof



Volunteer Taz Hennequin works on an arrangement of dried flowers that will be among the merchandise on sale during April at Under One Roof, the shop the benefits the AIDS Community. Items will be marked down anywhere from 25- to 75-percent as the store clears out inventory in preparation for moving to a new location at 549 Castro Street. The shop will celebrate its grand opening at the new site on May 13.

Court denies lesbian parental rights

by Cynthia Laird

A California appeals court ruled Tuesday, April 20 that a lesbian who helped her female partner raise two children before the couple split up is a nonparent who has no visitation rights. The Alameda County case has been closely watched by gay-rights advocates who had hoped California courts would follow decisions in other states that have granted parental rights to former members of same-sex couples.

Presiding Justice Daniel Hanlon of the 1st District Court of Appeal in San Francisco issued the opinion in the Alameda County

case, in which plaintiff "Kathleen C." had sought visitation rights and contact with two children she helped raise with her ex-partner, "Lisa W." The judge reportedly acknowledged that Kathleen C. "exhibited the characteristics of a de facto parent" while living with her partner and the children, but said he was forced to rule as he did in the absence of "any legislative or case authority granting a nonparent visitation rights over the objection of the biological parent and in the absence of any showing of detriment to the child."

Hanlon also said "the issue is more appropriately addressed in the Legislature."

Kathleen C. and Lisa W. started

living together in February 1985, when Lisa W.'s daughter was almost three years old. They decided to have a child together by artificial insemination the next year, and Lisa W. gave birth in 1987. The couple separated in 1990.

Initially, they agreed to a visitation plan that let Kathleen C. have the children on alternate weekends. She visited them until Lisa W. cut off visitation in November 1994. Kathleen C. stayed in contact with the children, prompting Lisa W. to get a restraining order against her.

Gay and lesbian couples who want to secure legal rights for both parents now can get second-parent adoptions, an option that wasn't available to Kathleen C. ▼

Reggie Williams's life celebration April 29

by Cynthia Laird

A celebration of the life of late AIDS activist Reggie Williams will take place Thursday, April 29 at the West Bay Conference Center in San Francisco. Williams died at an Amsterdam hospital of AIDS-related complications February 7 at the age of 47. The celebration is being held on what would have been his 48th birthday, and is open to the public.

Al Cunningham, with the

Yours in the Struggle Project, which Williams co-founded, said the celebration will include a photo exhibit, special guests, a video preview, performances, and dancing. In addition, guests will have an opportunity to record, in writing and on video, their memories of Williams, his life, and his work for use on the Yours in the Struggle website that's being developed.

Williams was born in Cincinnati and later moved to San Francisco, where he was involved in a number of organizations. He is

perhaps best known as the founding executive director of the now-defunct National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, the first federally funded AIDS service organization that focused on African-American men who have sex with men. ▼

The event takes place from 4 to 8 p.m. at 1290 Fillmore Street, at Eddy. Free parking is available in the northeast corner lot across the street. To RSVP, call (415) 487-6311.

Rainbow Marketing offers free seminar Sun.

by Cynthia Laird

Saying he wants to see the local queer community have a share in the success of the booming telecommunication and utility industries, an openly gay chief executive officer is hosting a free business opportunity seminar this Sunday, April 25 in San Francisco.

Rainbow Marketing is the company behind the seminar, and CEO Bill Folk said it will include an overview of the telecommunications and utilities industries, which have taken off because of technology advances and deregulation. "You will hear about the companies involved in history-making economics and about the future of worldwide expansion," Folk said. "You will also learn how you can become involved, start

your own business, work on a part time or spare time basis, and earn life-time income."

Rainbow Marketing offers Internet access, paging, long distance, electricity, and gas services for commercial and residential accounts.

Folk added that in the next two years, these industries will produce revenues in excess of \$2 trillion dollars. "It's on the table, and I want to see our gay and lesbian community have a share in the kind of wealth that's possible," said Folk.

Rainbow Marketing is positioned in the center of the telecommunication and utility markets, allowing the company to take advantage of worldwide deregulation of services currently occurring in both industries. Partnered with the hugely successful American Communications Network, Inc. (ACN), the 22nd fastest growing company

on Inc. magazine's recent list of the top 500 fastest growing U.S. firms, Rainbow Marketing is eager to share its resources with others, Folk explained.

"I'm looking for leaders, people who are visionaries, entrepreneurial types who can see how huge this opportunity is and who want to run with it," Folk said. "My goal is to work with and support people who want to be successful, and who want to help others be successful too. If you want to help others, make money, and have fun all at the same time, this is it."

Folk added that seating is limited for Sunday's seminar. ▼

The seminar starts at 2:30 p.m. To reserve a space, call (415) 861-1714; location and directions will be given when people call.

Big hats, big hair, big fun



Country swingers took to the dance floor of the Sundance Saloon at Club Townsend on Sunday, April 18, as the weekly party for gay and lesbian cowboys and cowgirls celebrated its first anniversary. After some basic two-step lessons for beginners, revelers kicked up their heels and twirled their partners to the country-western songs of Doug Stevens and Charlie Pacheco. It was all topped off with a big birthday cake.

Rick Gendler

Supervisor Leno wants clergy to be able to perform domestic partner ceremonies

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno proposed legislation last Monday, April 12 that would allow clergy in the city to perform domestic partner ceremonies. Leno requested the City Attorney's office to draft legislation that he expects to receive in a couple of weeks, after which the matter would go to a board committee for hearings.

Leno said that the San Francisco Administrative Code allows County Clerk Nancy Alfaro to deputize certain individuals she deems responsible to perform a domestic partner ceremony that the city will recognize. A member of the clergy does not need to be deputized in order for the state to

recognize a marriage they have performed.

"California law allows clergy to perform marriage ceremonies. San Francisco law should allow clergy to perform domestic partner ceremonies," Leno said. "I simply want our local law to provide the same ability to clergy with respect to domestic partners that state law provides to them with respect to marriage."

"It should be just as easy for individuals who wish to be supportive of committed relationships between gays and lesbians as it is for them to be supportive of committed relationships between heterosexual couples," Leno added.

This request for legislation is the latest in Leno's drive for equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual,

transgender (LGBT) community through domestic partners legislation. Last year he authored an ordinance that amended the police code to prohibit discrimination in public accommodation on the basis of domestic partner status. On Monday, April 19 he introduced legislation that would compel the city to adjust its official forms to reflect domestic partners any time it reflects a spousal relationship. That legislation now heads to committee. Leno had requested the City Attorney's office to draft that legislation earlier this year.

Leno also led the charge to ensure that city departments are in compliance with the mayor's executive order banning unequal treatment between married couples and domestic partners. ▼

Harvey Milk Plaza redesign meeting tonight

by Mark Norby

The oddly-shaped and sloping wedge of space currently known as Harvey Milk Plaza at the Muni Metro station in the Castro will finally begin a process of redesign, as the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved a resolution directing the city to create a major civic space to honor the life and contributions of former Supervisor Harvey Milk. A planning meeting for the redesign will be held tonight (Thursday, April 22) at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy at 6:30 p.m.

To many San Francisco residents the existing plaza is just a means to enter the underground transit system and is neither defined nor delineated as a civic space. In response to the supervisors' passing resolution, the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the San Francisco Art Commission will co-sponsor a design competition with the San Francisco Prize Committee.

"The San Francisco Prize Competition," said Project Manager Edgar Lopez, "will generate ideas on how to convert the existing plaza into an exciting civic landmark that honors the history and contributions of Supervisor Milk."

The Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy is located at 4235 19th Street between Diamond and Collingwood streets. The meeting

is open to the public and parking is available in the lot off of Collingwood Street. ▼

Call (415) 557-4675 with questions or e-mail at Edgar_Lopez@ci.sf.ca.us.

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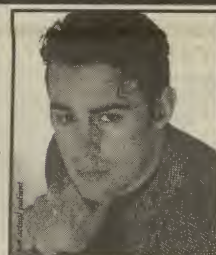
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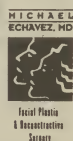


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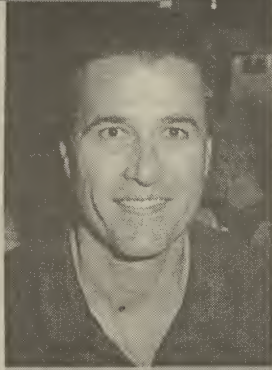
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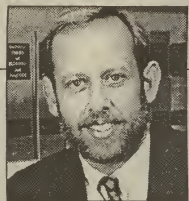
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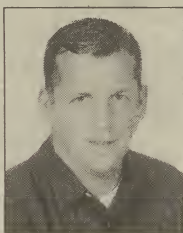
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All aboard for Sacramento

San Francisco activists prepared to board a bus headed for the state capitol on Monday, April 19, where they planned to take part in the ninth annual AIDS Lobby Day. Once in Sacramento, the activists joined hundreds of others pressing lawmakers for more state money to combat HIV, especially among blacks and Latinos, who increasingly feel the impacts of the disease.

Queers to march for Mumia on Saturday

by Liz Highleyman

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people will assemble a queer contingent in a march this Saturday, April 24, opposing the death penalty and calling for a new trial for African-American activist Mumia Abu-Jamal, an award-winning journalist and former member of the Black Panther Party.

A national group calling itself Rainbow Flags for Mumia is organizing contingents for the Millions for Mumia March which will take place concurrently in Philadelphia and San Francisco. Over 150 individuals and organizations — including the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, San Francisco's Lesbian and Gay Insurrection, and Pride At Work — have endorsed the call for a queer contingent.

According to Imani Henry, a transgender activist and national organizer for the Rainbow Flags contingent, "Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, two-spirited, and trans peoples all experience first-hand some form of brutality every day. Whether it is the police or some

right wing bigot, we understand what it means to be harassed, arrested, and jailed for just being who we are. ... If we allow the execution of Mumia, it will be a green light to the right wing forces, those who felt free to kill Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, Rita Hester in Boston, Billy Jack Gaither in Alabama, James Byrd in Texas, and Dr. Bernard Slepian in Buffalo."

In April, Abu-Jamal released a statement denouncing the recent wave of anti-gay and anti-transgender violence, stating, "The sickening attacks on gay people in cities across the nation recently is a reflection of the sickness that simmers at the core of the American soul. It is here that a truly perverse hatred is bred, and from here that all attacks are launched against all who are seen as other."

... This violence, which seems psychosexual in nature, is an attack on the self, that seeks to destroy a part of the self that threatens the self. From Matthew Shepard, to Alabama, to that bloody American ground that was once the seat of the Confederacy, Richmond, violence, spawned by the dark pit of hatred and fear, is unleashed by men who claim a false

and twisted 'purity.'"

Abu-Jamal was convicted in 1982 for killing a white Philadelphia police officer who had made a traffic stop of Abu-Jamal's brother. Abu-Jamal's supporters claim that the original trial was not conducted fairly. Supporters are calling for a new trial in which evidence uncovered since the original trial will be allowed to be presented, including evidence that witnesses in the original trial were intimidated.

The march comes amid a growing debate within the queer community — spurred by Shepard's murder — about the death penalty. Last month, 11 national LGBT organizations issued a joint statement opposing capital punishment. On April 5, Russell Henderson, one of the two men who confessed to taking part in Shepard's killing, was sentenced to life in prison. ▼

The San Francisco Millions for Mumia March will depart from Dolores Park at 10:30 a.m., ending with a rally at Civic Center Plaza at 1 p.m. For more information, call (415) 821-0459.

Alameda supes to address treatment of HIV+ prisoners Wednesday

by Mark Norby

The HIV in Prison Committee of California will attend the Alameda County Board of Supervisors meeting Wednesday, April 28 to demand that board members immediately address the treatment of HIV-positive prisoners at the Alameda County jail. The group will also call for a resolution that will ask for the resignation of Alameda County Sheriff Charlie Plummer.

The HIV in Prison Committee claims that Plummer is responsible for the continuing brutalization of HIV-positive prisoners due to Plummer's personal prejudices and misunderstandings of individuals with HIV and AIDS. In addition, the committee "believes it is time that all employees

working at the jail receive proper training regarding the safe care and treatment of people living with HIV and AIDS," Judy Greenspan, the committee's director, told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"We also collectively call on all personnel within the Alameda County jail system to support adequate medical and psychiatric care for all jail detainees. The [Alameda County] board has been receptive to our concerns so far, and we believe we will make significant progress in improving the treatment of HIV-positive prisoners at Wednesday's meeting," Greenspan added.

The committee has closely followed the case of Torey South, the 37-year-old transgendered woman who was denied her hormone medication while serving a three-year sentence in the Califor-

nia penitentiary. "South's case has given us further motivation to monitor the California prison system," Greenspan said.

Due to mistreatment at the hands of prison guards, South suffered hot flashes, dizziness, vomiting, stretch marks, a loss of breast volume, and disfigurement of her breasts. South will be awarded damages from the State Department of Corrections due to her mistreatment, following a decision issued in U.S. District Court in Sacramento earlier this month. ▼

The Alameda County board meeting is open to the public. The HIV in Prison Committee can be reached at (510) 533-2590, or e-mail Greenspan at judyg@igc.org.

'HIV '99 Current Trends' meeting Sat.

Stop AIDS statistics show a sharp rise in unprotected sex

by Mark Norby

Controversy and anxiety surrounds the recent reports of the rise in unprotected anal sex among San Francisco gay and bisexual men, and the city's Stop AIDS Project will hold a forum entitled "HIV '99 Current Trends" addressing these issues this Saturday, April 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco in the Castro.

Stop AIDS Project released a report earlier this month conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), detailing sex practices among gay and bisexual men ranging between 12 and 29 years of age. The report is the result of 21,857 peer-administered surveys conducted by the CDC between 1994 to the present with self-identified gay and bisexual men, and show sharp rises in unprotected anal sex.

Because currently-administered HIV medications have not been in use long enough to prove the long-term effectiveness on the immune system, Stop AIDS Project is examining how the current trend toward unprotected anal sex could lead to a "second wave" of HIV/AIDS infection and illness.

"We endeavor to address the possibility of a second wave of infections," said forum organizer Darlene Weide of Stop AIDS Project, "and our group of speakers will place great focus on this theory."

"The CDC report," Stop AIDS Project Executive Director Timothy Leifield told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "is a clear sign that prevention efforts are needed now more than ever. Community-based prevention efforts must address the ongoing restlessness that many gay and bi men feel around safe sex."

The upsurge in unprotected sex has received wide attention in recent months, yet this report is unique in that it shows specific data regarding increases in unprotected anal sex among a generation that has not experienced infection and death in proportions relative to generations that were sexually active during the 1970s and early 1980s.

Declining rates of HIV infection and AIDS deaths is believed to have led to changes in behavior among gay and bisexual men in this age group, and success of some HIV medications and their impact on immune recovery has given rise to the belief that the epidemic has slowed, or at least taken a course where the frequency of infection is low enough that caution becomes secondary in favor of greater sexual pleasure.

"There are many indications that as the epidemic continues to shift course through advances in AIDS-related treatments, so do the sexual practices of gay and bisexual men in San Francisco," Leifield added. "We must commit ourselves to reverse this trend to prevent the loss of yet another generation of gay and bisexual

men."

Leifield cautioned that the news of changing sex practices among gay and bisexual men should not be used to condemn gay men's sexuality, but rather inspire the community with information that can help develop understanding of the epidemic and the lives of those most affected by it.

"The speakers we have lined up are a really exciting group and some of the best voices in the country who deal with the complicated issues surrounding the current state of HIV and AIDS," said Weide. "The forum also is an opportunity to allow community

members to talk about how they feel current prevention methods are working. The questions we want to answer are 'should we continue to address HIV and AIDS as planned?' or 'do we need to make significant changes in our approaches to HIV and AIDS?'"

The forum is free to the public and food and drink will be provided. MCC-SF is located at 150 Eureka Street between 18th and 19th streets. For more information contact Darlene Weide at (415) 575-1050 ext. 208, or James Nguyen ext. 272.

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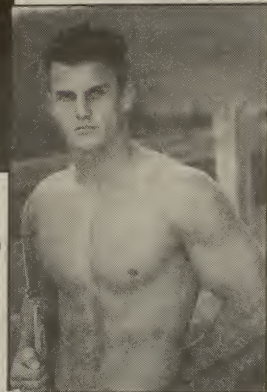
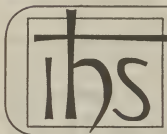


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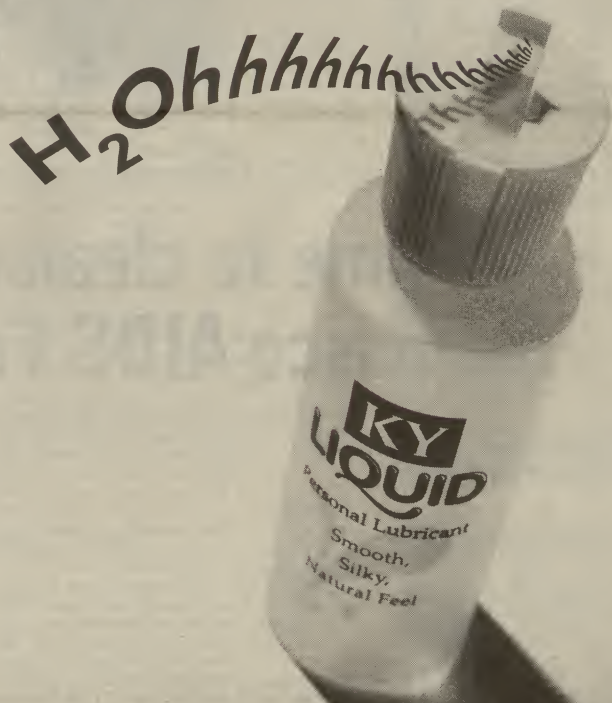
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OPEN FORUM

A lesson learned at school

Tuesday evening the B.A.R. got a sudden torrent of phone calls and e-mails asking if we knew anything about the sexuality of the teenagers who shot up their high school in Colorado. We didn't, and it seemed nobody really did at the time – but that didn't stop some people from making the inflammatory statement that the guys were gay.

Apparently, at least one on-air news reporter in Colorado made the statement, and Internet soil pipe Matt Drudge contributed with some contrived "scoop" that contributed to a sudden feeling of dread in the stomachs of lesbians and gays across the country. Our community knows all too well that most of our murder victims are quickly forgotten (Matthew Shepard being the notable exception) but our murderers live on in infamy. And those of us who have followed previous school shootings are aware that the gunman (gunboy, actually) in one case is rumored to be gay.

That, it is said, is what reportedly prompted Michael Carneal's rampage in Paducah, Kentucky: the rumor that he was gay. The gossip surfaced long before he turned violent, in what his classmates must now consider the "good old days" when he simply suffered, like most kids who are queer or perceived to be queer, he tolerated whispers and giggles and the occasional physical manifestation of homophobia until one day he became unlike the others. He snapped and started firing, perhaps killing the ones who had taunted him and made his life hell (believing all along that, as heterosexuals, that was somehow their collective birthright) but also shooting up bystanders who couldn't get out of the way of his rage.

Homophobia kills, again and again, in odd ways. It killed Matt Shepard and Billy Jack Gaither and Louis Pearson (the man who was tortured to death at a park near Ukiah one year ago this May 2) and Brian Wilmes (who was killed outside a San Francisco gay bar in November, and whose killer is going to trial this week). It probably killed Eric Keller, who was beaten to death in a field outside Vacaville in January, presum-

ably by the man who left sperm inside Keller's body – whoever did that is still at large, as far as anyone knows.

But the Paducah school shooting also shows that homophobia can kill those it infects, and random victims. It is a malignant and unpredictable force that nobody should consider harmless, and parents should immunize their kids against it at all costs – whether those kids are the likely perpetrators or the likely recipients.

Unfortunately, the grief-crazed parents of Paducah are busily looking just about everywhere else for a culprit. The day before the gunfire broke out in Colorado, the Kentucky parents filed a lawsuit charging the Hollywood entertainment industry (specifically the film *The Basketball Diaries*), video

games, and Internet porn sites with complicity. As attorney Jack Thompson put it, "We intend to hurt Hollywood. We intend to hurt the video game industry. We intend to hurt the sex porn sites."

But not homophobia, which was really a million times more responsible for the carnage.

Perhaps this is a good time to state unequivocally that we do not consider Carneal, or any other schoolyard killers, heroes or martyrs.

They deserve the full force of the law for what they did. But it does no good to pretend that their actions arose out of a vacuum, or even from their

televisions and computers, in cases where it really arises from the attitudes of politicians and civic "leaders" who demonize gays and lesbians. ▼



Editorial



It's time to clean up the San Francisco AIDS Foundation

by Criss Romero
President, Harvey Milk LGBT
Democratic Club

In July 1998, the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Democratic Club passed a resolution asking for the resignation of San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) Executive Director Pat Christen. Last week's *Bay Area Reporter* article, regarding numerous new work bias allegations, reinforces our lack of faith in the SFAF leadership.

Over the past five years, SFAF workers have come to our organization asking for help.

In 1994, workers came to the Milk Club to ask for support and to debate the issue of unionization with management. At that meeting, the Milk Club discovered management was manipulating figures to hide that certain communities had little representation, including HIV-positive members on their own board of directors.

In 1998 workers came because the *Vida y Movimiento* program was cut without any input from the affected community. Latino clients were outraged and did not believe management's rationale that it wanted to avoid the duplication of services. Clients signed a petition demonstrating their dissatisfaction with the foundation. A worker was actually fired for making the issue public at the California AIDS Ride.

The foundation has been duplicitous in their dealings with the LGBT community. They hide client surveys from the public. They place former managers on the board

of directors that should include members of the community. They've been oppressive in their labor management relations; new policies prevent employees from working with their communities for fear of retaliation. It was only a matter of time before one of their own managers came forward with secrets regarding their management process, as was reported in last week's story.

Of primary concern is that most of the management team at SFAF is not LGBT, nor do they live in San Francisco. Yet they facilitate most of our AIDS policy on a local and nationwide level. As president of the Milk Club, I spoke with an SFAF manager to let him know of our membership's request for the current executive director to resign. I related the frustration that members felt in that the foundation's problems had been going on for years. The Milk Club needed to share a message that SFAF leadership has failed our community.

His response: "If you have nothing better to do than pass resolutions about the foundation then go ahead." This patronizing response is demonstrative of the problematic relationship SFAF has with the LGBT community.

As a former SFAF employee, I've experienced the same harassment and disrespect they have shown to many in our community. When I became active in voicing my concerns regarding much of the above, SFAF engaged in a calculated attempt to reduce my position and force me to quit. The client services director made Erik Dubón (the for-

mer manager alleging workplace bias and my supervisor in the *Vida y Movimiento*) lower my performance evaluations. Program Director Rene Durazzo required Erik Dubón to change my job description in order to write me out of the Latino case management program. Two other workers and I filed EEOC charges at SFAF for discrimination. When I finally left SFAF, the foundation's representative physician tried to force me to take an HIV test as part of a routine disability leave examination. The SFAF human resources director had not informed him that it was against the law to do this. I filed a charge at the Human Rights Commission to prevent them from doing this to anyone else.

During this time, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club was the only LGBT group that supported the workers' efforts to receive decent treatment and respect at SFAF, including domestic partners benefits equivalent to the spousal benefits provided. The Milk Club's support brought me into political activism. I'm honored to now serve as president of the Milk Club.

It is unlikely that things will change at SFAF unless the leadership does. A lawsuit might be the only way to resolve the current conflict, but as an organization responsive to and working for the benefit of our community, SFAF should have never gotten to this acrimonious point. The community's concerns must come first. The ongoing failure of SFAF management's to do so deeply saddens us. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Parasite, out of mind

After reading that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors decreed April "STD Awareness Month," in large part because treatable STDs are now known to significantly enhance the risk for becoming infected with HIV (B.A.R. April 9), I navigated to the Department of Public Health's web page only to find that the third most prevalent STD in the Western world was missing from their otherwise complete roster of vaginal, penile, and rectal infections.

This omission is alarming given that the department's own 10-year study of 268 gay men living in San Francisco showed that intestinal parasites – a sexually acquired disease among gay and bisexual men – are a significant risk factor for AIDS (1989 Int. Conf. AIDS, 5:96; abstract M.A.P.III). This finding, confirmed by three other studies, including a large-scale and carefully controlled investigation carried out by epidemiologists at UCSF, adds to the belief expressed by many AIDS researchers that HIV itself is opportunistic, requiring concomitant infections that activate the very cells the virus invades. As one noted federal AIDS researcher sums it up, "If I were a gay man infected with parasites, I'd definitely get rid of the parasites."

First described as *bone fide* STDs in 1968, intestinal parasites were 10 years later found to have a prevalence of 48 percent in gay men living in New York City but only 5 percent in nearly 6,000 hospital controls. By the 1980s, parasites had spread to several million gay men in major cities all over the world. So novel and widespread was the epidemic that, on the eve of AIDS in 1978, tropical disease specialist Ben Kean of the New York University-Cornell Medical School warned: "The difficulty in making a diagnosis, inadequate therapy, failure to alert potential victims, and official neglect of the epidemic have combined to create a dangerous situation." Kean was angry that the New York City Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta were giving parasites – and the gay men they infected – short shrift.

For a while in the mid-1980s, the San Francisco DPH made a concerted effort to educate the gay community about parasites; how they are transmitted (through feces), diagnosed (through stool samples), and treated (antibiotics). Flyers with titles like "Parasites make strange bedfellows" and "I don't live in the tropics ... so why do I have parasites?" were prominently displayed at the city's health clinics, and screening for parasites – an expensive proposition – was free. DPH ads, warning that safer sex practices aimed at preventing exposure to HIV did not protect against parasites, appeared in at least one issue of the B.A.R. (8/1/85).

All that fell to the wayside for reasons only public health officials can answer. But the consequence was predictable: the epidemic of parasites is still with us in full force. A recent survey in New York City found in that the rates of Giardia were highest in Chelsea and the West Village among homosexual men, of which only 10 percent were HIV-positive. The crude rate for this intestinal parasite was, in fact, off the scale in these areas, exceeding 500 per 100,000 (by comparison, the city average for adult women was 20 per 100,000). Since these are only reported cases, the true incidence of Giardia in gay men must be substantially higher.

To their credit, SOMA sex clubs are stepping in where the CDC and large city health departments are not bothering to go. One busy club prominently includes parasite information in their explicit, copyrighted, STD pamphlets. At least two have a policy forbidding rimming, the major but not only way parasites are transmitted.

Fortunately, despite the DPH's reluctance to include parasites in their STD website, physicians at the city's health clinics are aware of the problem and can answer questions gay men may have about this STD, which currently affects more persons in this country than gonorrhea, syphilis, and hepatitis combined.

Richard Bowman Pearce, Ph.D.
Gladstone Institutes of Virology and Immunology

Writing in the margins

[The following was sent to Vicky Kolakowski:]

I would like to congratulate you on your story ["Another transgender murder," April 8] that you wrote for the Bay Area Reporter.

Your story was not only fair and well balanced, but also gave even casual readers the fact that the transgendered community is a diverse community. We are particularly pleased at your mention of the marginalization of so many of us here in San Francisco. As we both know, this is a crucial factor in why the violence is as it is.

The rest of the so-called mainstream press could learn from this story. Keep up the good work.

Rosalyn S. Montgomery
Founder, Transgenders United for Equality
San Francisco

Air farce

In the interest of fairness, I would like to respond to and comment on Seth Watkins's [guest opinion] on the United Airlines boycott [April 1].

Let me begin by saying I fully support the domestic partners statute of San Francisco. I am in complete agreement with its premise and principle. However, your singling out of United Airlines as the only airline opposed to this law is misguided and misleading.

Let's look at the facts: United Airlines is one of 22 airlines belonging to the Air Transport Association. United joined the ATA in a lawsuit against San Francisco challenging the domestic partners ordinance. Sixteen of those airlines fly into SFO. All of them are represented by the ATA, and none of them have a contractual domestic partners policy. Yet UAL was chosen to be vilified and boycotted by our Board of Supervisors and in turn by our gay community. I wish all these airlines would adopt the domestic partners law, because it is just and much overdue. But it is unfair to single out one and ignore the others.

To be fair, the boycott presently directed at United should also be applied to other members of the ATA. To pick on one of these airlines as the only one that is in opposition to the SF law, and ignore the others that have the same policy, is using bullying tactics and is grossly unjust. I believe there is an obligation to inform people of the entire story.

United has sponsored the Academy of Friends gala several times. United has also sponsored AIDS walks and the AIDS Memorial Quilt. It is the official airline of the San Francisco Men's Chorus. It's customer service department is gay friendly. They were the first to form an employee gay and lesbian group. They also offered to fly you to Matthew Shepard's funeral. So all this hysteria about United being homophobic just doesn't ring true.

Another bit of misinformation is the collusion, partnership, and cooperation between the Pat Robertson-led ACLJ and United Airlines. That is a total fabrication. The only commonality is that the ATA case was being held in the same District Court and by the same judge. The two cases are completely independent of each other.

Let's try to put this thing in proper perspective. Boycott the domestic airlines flying into SFO that do not have a domestic partners policy. That would be all of them.

Arnie Jackson
San Francisco

[Regrettably, you are steeped in misinformation. United has chosen to go to court independently of ATA, and court observers have seen frequent evidence that the airline and the ACLJ are, at the very least, comparing notes and being chummy. Boycott who you like, but saying United is no worse than other airlines is like saying Southern Baptists are no worse than other religions.]

I ♥ Crane

This July is the hundredth birthday of Hart Crane. It seems to me there should be some sort of event or public reading to honor this great poet, but I haven't heard or seen anything about any sort of event. If you have heard about an event in the Bay Area, or would be interested in helping to put something together, please contact me at HCrane100@aol.com.

Alan Martinez
San Francisco

Mobil ... or shell?

I was recently surprised to discover that this year's San Francisco AIDS Candlelight Vigil was not being organized by Mobilization Against AIDS. Given that Mobilization stopped mobilizing as an active AIDS lobby force years ago I had to wonder what it was they did do with their time, money, and resources. So I called them at 863-4676 and asked Loras Ojeda to explain the purpose of Mobilization Against AIDS.

"To coordinate the international Candlelight Vigil," he said.

"By doing exactly what?" I countered. "Coordinating media coverage?"

"Well no, we don't do that," he replied. "Basically we tell people from, say, Des Moines, Iowa how to plan a vigil if they wanted to have one."

"Oh really? That's strange considering your group isn't even involved in the vigil being planned here," I pressed on. "In all honesty, at this point how does your group's work benefit anyone living with AIDS in San Francisco?"

Dead silence.

Seems to me all that's left of Mobilization Against AIDS is a rented shell of an office and funding to prop up the careers of a staff that does absolutely nothing.

Mobilization should do us all a favor and stop perpetuating the illusion of a "crisis" by pretending to be an active organization. We don't need you anymore. Close your doors and find real jobs. AIDS is over.

David Pasquarelli
ACT UP/San Francisco

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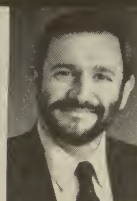
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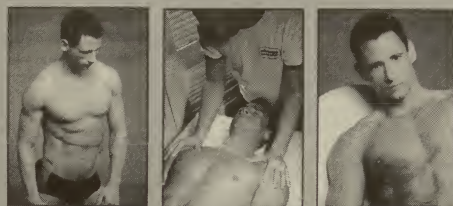
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Not gay enough

Do me a favor and stop referring to San Francisco as gay Mecca! What is so gay about a place where the government prohibits bathhouses with locked doors because they feel adult men should not be allowed to make decisions about their own bodies? What is so gay about a city that involves its Department of Public Works in a systematic destruction of natural areas in parks to prevent the possibility of cruising? What is so gay about a city where gay gyms post signs saying sexual activity forbidden and then monitor its members to see if anyone is too intimate? What is so gay about a city that closes public toilets in order to prevent tearoom cruising? What is so gay about a city that allows businesses to create their own police forces to harass and entrap gay men? What is so gay about a culture that celebrates diversity but destroys that diversity by selling out to multinational corporations for profit? What is so gay about a community that is more concerned about the streets being clean than it is about the plight of members of its own community who are down and out? What is so gay about a community that is more concerned about keeping light poles free of fliers than it is about First Amendment rights or the ability to communicate with each other?

No, I am not just another old queen on a soapbox wishing to return to the 1970s. I live in Germany and have returned to San Francisco because my new partner has never seen the city. I am both embarrassed and ashamed of what he will find compared to his life in Germany. In Germany, because of a cooperation between police and the gay community, cruising areas in public parks are protected as a gay cultural phenomenon. Tearoom cruising is also allowed because there is no desire to stop the behavior of consenting adults. Bathhouses exist in every city with locked rooms and have been one of the major avenues for safer sex education. To engage in sex with a gay German man will almost always result in a condom being used for anal sex without discussion. This is a result of a culture that has allowed its people to take responsibility for their own actions instead of playing parent. The new government has approved gay marriage in line with the European Parliament directive for all member states to initiate full equality under the law for lesbians and gay men.

The thing that offends me the most about my return to San Francisco is to witness the amount of complicity among gay men in our own oppression. Gay men are reporting other gay men for "objectionable behavior" simply because the rule exists against that behavior. On America Online gay men will have other gay men's accounts canceled for something erotic in their profile. At street fairs people in our own community try to censor materials for being to sexually explicit because a child might see it! I even heard a discussion between two gay men in their 20s about how gay men my age were responsible for the AIDS epidemic because of our promiscuity. Like the rest of America, San Francisco has sunk to new lows in the attempt to keep the nation on the right moral track. Like the rest of the country people are too busy in their struggles to make more money. They can't be bothered with anything that doesn't oppress them personally. So I have come home to find that gay and lesbian is now defined as one man and one man, or one woman and one woman. All of those years of protesting and putting our lives on the line for equality have lead instead to the annihilation of our uniqueness and the assimilation into the mainstream instead of acceptance. So now it is no longer them against us, it is us against us!

The only hope for America and for San Francisco will be when that 70 percent of the population who said they really didn't care about Monica and Bill get off their collective asses and do something. And I don't mean go shopping!!

Robert Starkey
Frankfurt, Germany

Still smokin'

I completely agreed with this Gilbert P. Sydney who wrote about the smoking problem on Polk Street. In particular my all-time favorite bar - the Giraffe, now called the Giraffe Video Lounge.

My friends tell me if I don't like the smoke I should go to the Castro. But I don't want to go to the Castro - and more to the point, why should I have to?

I'm a 72-year-old gay man who lives on Bush Street. The Giraffe has been my favorite bar for more years than I care to remember. I remember the old days with Chuck, Richard, Damon, Charlie (bless his heart), he is still there, and still the best bartender in the city) David, and oh so many others who are gone. I love that bar and I don't want to go anywhere else - but I'm old and have lung problems already. I just can't take the smoke - why won't they go by the law??? I still want to drink and be with my friends too.

Come on guys and gals - we non-smokers are people too and have rights.

Donald Ufford
San Francisco

Supes on First, Sisters safe at home

[The following was sent to the Board of Supervisors]

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the leadership and courage you exhibited in defending the closure of Castro Street on Easter Sunday to observe the historic anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club will remember those who remained steadfast in defense of the First Amendment and the lesbian and gay community despite the high volumes of calls and letters to encourage you to do otherwise.

For 20 years the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have merged street theater, political activism, and a drag sensibility to provoke, heal, outrage, comfort, humor, mobilize, challenge, and entertain a large segment of the city of San Francisco. They are frequently lauded for their fundraising efforts on behalf of numerous community causes. However, it should also be noted that the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were often the first of groups to recognize a community issue, embrace a cause or call our community to action.

It is unfortunate that the hierarchy of the Catholic Church chose the Sisters' exercise of free speech and political involvement as a media flash point and as a call to arms for other organized religious organizations. It is noteworthy that so many religious leaders and lay persons invested an exorbitant amount of energy, public relations skills, and political capital to express their misplaced outrage. Outrage directed at a group who dress as nuns, raise money for the sick, champion equal rights and opportunities for all, and encourage all communities to embrace one another's struggles.

Notice the lack of focused Christian outrage and moral mobilization to decry the hostile political and ecumenical actions of the Reverend Fred Phelps of Kansas and his followers when they have protested at the funerals of persons who have died of AIDS and of victims murdered by gay bashers, like Matthew Shepherd. Doubtlessly their hateful signs that proclaim "God Hates Fags", "Matt's in Hell", "Fags Doom Nations" and "Gay=AIDS=Death" have given many the green light to discriminate and hate, if not outright gay bash and murder.

Their lopsided outrage speaks volumes as to their view of our community. On the one hand, the church lambastes the Sisters' satirizing of the church, and their efforts to challenge everyone to confront dogma and prejudice. At the same time, it goes completely unnoticed or unchallenged that a clergyman embraces hatred, violence and prejudice in such an ugly, public, and confrontational way.

In this coming year we anticipate that the rhetoric targeting the more outrageous and non-conforming segments of our community will intensify in an effort to legitimize prejudicial assignment of second-class citizenship upon lesbians and gay men. The upcoming Knight initiative and the fight for gay and lesbian marriage rights will intensify these discussions and focus attention on our community as never before. We will look to the Board of Supervisors again for leadership in combating the Knight initiative and supporting our community's right to marry. The lesbian and gay community and our allies must remain united and unflinching in the face of this fierce and organized opposition. Thank you for standing with us, on the correct side of this issue.

Dean Goodwin and Esther Lee
Co-Chairs, Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club
San Francisco

Sense of omission

Your reply to Father Michael Eady's discourse and reference to himself and his colleagues as the "mystic body of Christ" [Mailstrom, April 15] omitted slavery and genocide in the Americas as Catholic legacies. You might also have reminded the good Father, in reply to his censure of street demonstrations in front of sacred places, that Jesus did his most important work in the streets, demonstrated in a temple, challenged the political and religious institutions of his day, was accused of blasphemy and heresy and condemned and crucified for treason. In this century, I doubt he would be a likely candidate for the Rosary and Altar Society.

Concerning virility, I would have told this self-proclaimed emissary of God that his lofty, skewed sense of male superiority has systematically kept women inferior to a male ecclesiastical hierarchy that has spat and shat on them for centuries. I would suggest that it might behoove a disconnected, lofty man, who pretends to emulate Jesus, to align his church with our community in street outreach and service, just like Jesus. In this way, together, we will achieve an understanding of what quenched Jesus's thirsting love for souls: compassion, tolerance, and love for all humanity. We will then be true men and true women of true grit and courage, celebrating our individuality.

Just think of it.

Dan Solliday
San Francisco

Front-runners face obstacles

by Wayne Friday

Most national observers of the 2000 presidential campaign will tell you that Republican Texas Governor **George W. Bush** and Vice President **Al Gore**, a Democrat, have their respective party's nominations all but "locked up" for the next national election. However, polls released last week now show that Gore appears to be suffering from the fallout of President **Bill Clinton**'s sins. According to a newly-released Pew Research Center Poll, Gore's popularity continues to decline in part because many Americans have a personal negative view of Clinton and are exhausted by a series of Clinton administration controversies.

In what has to be heartening news for former New Jersey Senator **Bill Bradley**, Gore's only opponent for the Democratic nomination, the Pew Poll showed that 74 percent of the respondents, including large numbers of Democrats, said they are "tired of all the problems associated with the Clinton administration." And although the president's job performance continues to remain high, only 29 percent even wish that Clinton could run for a third term.

Worse, although most voters said they like Gore as a person better than Clinton, only one-third feel that the vice president cares more about their problems; also, significantly, Gore is not getting much credit for the administration's substantive achievements. Perhaps the worst news for Gore, however, was the poll's finding that he cannot count on women – the heart of Clinton's electoral strength – to help carry him to victory in 2000.

Although Gore is not at all responsible for the personal scandals of a sex-hungry Bill Clinton, there is a certain "guilt by association" rubbing off on him. More and more Americans – of all parties – continue to believe Clinton has such low moral character that Gore suffers simply by being his vice president. If voters, feeling tired, embarrassed, and to some degree disgusted with the Clinton administration, are "ready to throw out the baby with the bath water," Gore might end up paying for his boss's personal sins come election day 2000.

In the same poll, both Bush and **Elizabeth Dole**, who has never run for public office before, easily defeat Gore. Now Bradley appears to be gaining on Gore's once-sure nomination, as many Democrats see him as a chance to "get this Clinton scandal behind us" once and for all.

While it is far too early for Gore's campaign people to panic, and indeed they discounted the Pew Poll as being far too early to be meaningful, they must recognize that many American voters are taking out their frustrations with Clinton on the vice president, making his road to the White House in 2000 difficult, if not impossible.

As for Texas Governor Bush, many Republicans fear a "rush to

judgment" in his case, feeling that their party is too quickly crowning the relatively unknown younger Bush for their party's nomination. Bush is trying to use the Texas version of the "Rose Garden strategy" of saying as little as possible about as few issues as he can, and has chosen to stick close to Austin as long as he can before taking stances on any issues. His biggest roadblock (which could ultimately turn out to be Gore's biggest blessing) is that nine other Republican presidential hopefuls are eager to take potshots at him once he starts campaigning.

Only last week, **Pat Buchanan** warned that he was gunning for the GOP front-runner by saying that "I'm going to see if 'Junior' can really take a punch" once the race gets under way and Bush comes out of hiding from the Texas governor's mansion.

Our Man Friday

Another GOP candidate, **Gary**

Bauer, complains that "my party is so interested in winning that it apparently doesn't care" what Bush feels on the issues. Most recently, former vice president (under former President **George Bush**) **Dan Quayle** entered the GOP fray, once again playing the morality card (he is still campaigning against the mythical television character **Murphy Brown**). He warned that he, too, is out to take down his former boss's son. ("President Quayle?" Can anyone really say that without giggling?)

We know where Bush stands on gay rights (he's not much better than the likes of Buchanan or Bauer), on immigration, abortion, and other controversial issues. But when asked about the Kosovo crisis last week, the younger Bush's statement was ridiculed as vague, only heightening the concerns of those within his party who feel he is truly untested on national and international issues.

Can Gore overcome the reputation and personal shortcomings of Clinton to win the nomination and ultimately the general election in 2000? Possibly. But only if, as many think likely, George Bush gets beaten up by the gaggle of Republicans who have more than a year to force positions out of him before the July 2000 GOP nominating convention.

As Arizona Senator **John McCain**, another hopeful put it this week, when referring to the stampede to get the nomination for Bush, "the American people expect a campaign, not a coronation."

Politics and people

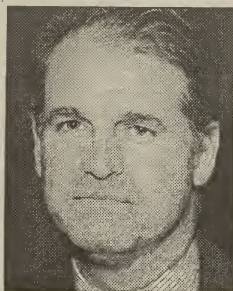
I've got a bet with one of the city's top political consultants that he doesn't run, but if there is one possible candidate that Mayor **Willie Brown**'s people are worried (plenty worried), about, it is Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano**.

One of our city's most famous citizens, **Sharon Stone**, made an impassioned plea for one of her favorite causes, the fight against AIDS to the American Society of Newspapers Editors (ASNE) last week at the Fairmont. But that's not all she said. One of her more memorable comments was "I care

a lot more about homeless children than if the president got a blowjob," which delighted the surprised crowd.

Look for GOP Representative **James Rogan** of Glendale to announce against Senator **Dianne Feinstein** any day now. Even Rogan reportedly realizes he can't win re-election to his House seat now; Feinstein, on the other hand, has a whopping 94 percent statewide name ID according to the latest Field Poll. She also holds a 60 percent favorable image rating with voters, and continues to be the most popular politician of either party in the entire state.

Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley** is reportedly ready to fight it out with San Mateo Supervisor **Mike Nevins** for the Democratic nomination to replace Congressman **Tom Lantos**, who many expect to soon retire.



Kriss Worthington

Berkeley gay city councilman **Kriss Worthington** announced last week that he would ask that city to "apologize" to newspaper heiress **Patricia Hearst** for the "inconvenience and harm that she suffered" after being kidnapped in 1974 by the radical Symbionese Liberation Army; what the city of Berkeley had done wrong to merit an apology was not made clear, and after the laughter prompted by Worthington's proposal died down, he was promptly hit in the face with a pie – a popular and growing act of political dissent in the Bay Area. (Would a prompt kick in the ass for the misguided councilmember not have been more appropriate?)

Mark O'Hara, a self-styled "Duke of Retro-Disco," who as **Skippy Tornad** leads the 15-piece disco-funk band Superbooty, called to announce his candidacy for mayor of San Francisco this week under the banner of Minnesota Governor **Jesse Ventura**'s Reform Party. O'Hara, 37, says that "I believe only independent candidates and campaigns – free from special interest money and the partisan interest of the traditional parties – can bring democracy to America."

Down in Long Beach, the state's fifth largest city, **Dan Baker**, an openly gay man, easily won election to the city council last month, becoming the first in that city.

And in the state's seventh-largest city, Oakland Mayor **Jerry Brown** is putting the town of 396,000 back on the map as he drops hints of ambition for a return to higher office; when asked recently if the mayor's office is his last stop politically, the mayor replied, "I don't know; I've certainly had a lot of stops – I don't see why this should be my last."

And how was your week? ▼



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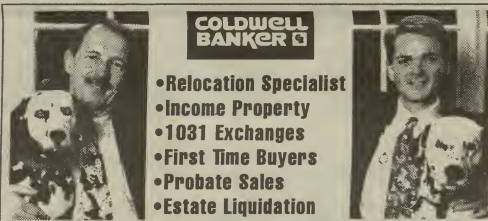
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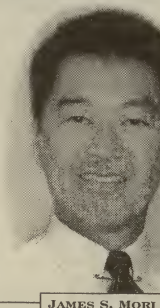
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Why gay conservatives are wrong about ENDA

by Dale Carpenter

Across the gay political spectrum there is widespread support for laws that would prohibit employment discrimination against gays. Both the left-leaning National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the conservative Log Cabin Republicans support one such proposal pending in Congress, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Now a small but influential group of gay conservatives and libertarians is challenging this consensus. These writers, including Andrew Sullivan, oppose government-enforced discrimination in the military, in marriage laws, and in other contexts. But they argue powerfully that anti-bias laws invade private liberty—a domain gay equality advocates should surely defend, not erode. Much as I respect them and share their hostility to government intrusion into private matters, their philosophical concerns about anti-bias laws are misplaced.

The gay conservative critique of anti-bias laws starts with an important principle: law should preserve a large private sphere that government cannot invade. This private sanctuary allows individuals the freedom, among other things, to associate with whomever they please. It shields bedrooms and pocketbooks alike from government meddling. It is this fundamental principle that some gay conservatives call forth in their campaign against anti-discrimination laws, which they see as government intrusion into private business.

But even majestic principles do not float in empty space. At some time of the day they bump into facts on the ground or compete with other principles. The political values we most cherish bend to accommodate other interests and needs. You have free speech, but you can't libel another person or yell "Fire!" in a crowded theater. You have freedom of religion, but you can't refuse to pay taxes because you think the government

they fund is immoral.

These accommodations don't mean you don't have those rights or that those rights have been left worthless by the accommodations.

So it is with private business. You have the right to run your business pretty much as you think best. But, for at least the past 100 years, you can't conspire with another business to fix the prices of your products. You can't poison the stream that runs beside your factory. You can't hire 6-year-olds to dig your coal mines. Controversial in their day, these intrusions on private enterprise no longer excite serious opposition from conservatives. Many of us would like to see them amended in some way, but few call for their wholesale elimination.

For the past 35 years, you also can't fire your employees simply because you don't like their skin color or sex. We adopted those laws because group-based job discrimination was consigning large categories of citizens to second-class status with third-rate opportunity in life. Gays may or may not need similar protection, but it's sort of quaint to say that laws protecting gays will soil some inviolate principle of non-interference in business. That horse is long out of the barn, folks.

I agree with gay conservatives who say private discrimination is beyond the proper range of government regulation. You're free to keep men or AIDS patients out of your home, for example. You're free to have only Jewish friends or only black sexual partners.

On the other hand, almost everyone agrees that "public" discrimination can be regulated. Is employment discrimination properly considered a private or public affair? I do not see how the process of hiring and firing a work force in an already heavily-regulated commercial setting is a private matter. At least it is not "private" in the sense that inviting a particular person into your

home or choosing a particular person for sex is private.

In deciding whether an act of discrimination is private or public, it's helpful to consider the effect of that discrimination on the target. Employment touches every part of our lives. For starters, it enables us to feed, clothe, and house ourselves. When an employer fires someone, his act hits the employee not for a moment but for weeks, months, or a lifetime.

That makes employment discrimination different in kind and degree from purely private acts of discrimination. If I say to my house guest, "Spic, leave my house," I have insulted him with my racism. If I say to my employee, "Spic, you're fired," I

have insulted him and cost him his livelihood.

The freedom to order a harassing Christian fundamentalist off your lawn—an important freedom, to be sure—is not the same as the "freedom" to discharge whomever you choose for any reason you fancy, any more than it's the same as the "freedom" to conspire with your competitors or the "freedom" to choke your neighbors with noxious fumes from your smokestack.


That's not to argue that all government intrusion into employment or business is warranted just because some of it is. Much regulation is stupid and too costly. Conservatives are right to nourish a healthy suspicion of all proposals to regulate business. But the particular intrusion must be judged on its merits, not simply dismissed as an "intrusion."

There are other, more practical arguments gay conservatives have made against ENDA-type legislation (e.g., that such laws may unintentionally hurt employment prospects for gays). These arguments rely on empirical observations and predictions I also find questionable. But least persuasive is reliance on an unyielding bar against government intrusion into private business that we ceased to credit—if we ever really did—at least a century ago. ▼

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March in April

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: Lesbians and gay men march on Washington for the third time to demand their rights, April 25, 1993.

The Millennium March on Washington, now in the planning stages, is scheduled for April of next year. It will be the fourth lesbian and gay community march to take place in the past 20 years.

Mass demonstrations on Washington reached their heyday during the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s and 1970s. Crowds in the hundreds of thousands regularly gathered in the nation's capital in support of progressive causes. African-Americans rallied in Washington in 1963; protesters against the Vietnam War staged a massive moratorium in 1969; and women and men marched for the Equal Rights Amendment in 1978. That same year, lesbian and gay organizers began preliminary plans for a march on Washington to appeal for civil rights legislation for gay people.

Held on October 14, 1979, the first lesbian and gay march on Washington attracted approximately 100,000 participants from around the country. New Yorkers chartered a train they dubbed the "Disco Express," complete with a "backroom" for sexual encounters; San Franciscans boarded the "Gay Freedom Train" for a 3,000-mile journey. Lesbians led the procession from the U.S. Capitol to a rally in front of the Washington Monument, belting out "When the Dykes Come Marching In." At the rally, singer Holly Near captured the tone of the day with her lyrics, "We are a gentle, angry people/And we are marching, marching for our lives."

The following day, a contingent of activists presented a list of five demands to Congress: the repeal of anti-gay laws; passage of a bill to extend coverage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to gay people; the issuing of executive orders banning anti-gay discrimination in federal employment and in the military; protection from child custody battles for lesbian and gay parents; and protection of lesbian and gay youth from harassment and discrimination.

The '86 march

From first-person accounts, the 1979 march was festive and hopeful. But two years later, the AIDS crisis struck. Then, in 1986,

lesbian and gay rights received a crushing blow from the Supreme Court in the *Bowers v. Hardwick* decision, upholding a state's right to outlaw gay sex. When lesbians and gay men gathered for a second march in 1987, their mood had changed dramatically to one of gloom and rage.

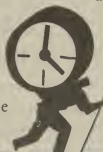
Under gray skies, lesbians and gay men descended on Washington once again on October 11, 1987. The U.S. Park Service estimated attendance at 200,000, but march organizers counted over three times that number. This time, the tone was set by streams of marchers who wagged their fingers at the Reagan White House, chanting "Shame! Shame! Shame!" and by the many participants who pinned photographs of deceased friends and lovers to their jackets.

Lesbians and gay men also invoked the spirit of the 1963 black civil rights march, singing "We Shall Overcome" while marching

and listening to Jesse Jackson speak at the rally. A civil disobedience action was staged at the Supreme Court. "We vow to spend our dollars, our votes, and our nights in jail," asserted Virginia Apuzzo, then the executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

First on the list of demands this time around was the legal recognition of gay relationships (three years before the Hawaii case began), and same-sex couples staged a mass wedding in front of the IRS, officiated by the "gay pope," the Reverend Troy Perry, the founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. But the most moving part of the weekend for many people was the unveiling of the Names Project Quilt. The size of two football fields, the quilt filled the mall between the Capitol and the Washington Monument and consisted of almost 2,000 panels,

page 19 ►



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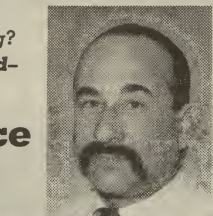
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Dirty dog home after hard days' night

by Jane Warner and
Ron McGlashan

Last week this column reported two stolen dogs in the Castro, Alfredo and Rafe. An anonymous caller told Alfredo's owners late Friday evening, April 16 that she had spotted the dog tied to a tree near her home in the Richmond District. The owners and several friends went to where the caller had specified, and there was Alfredo: tired, dirty, but very excited to see his family. Owners Tara and Paris of Bagdad Café wish to express their deepest gratitude to all those who helped in the search for Alfredo. However, Rafe is still missing. Rafe is a tan wolf/dingo/shepherd mix and is very wild. If you have seen Rafe, please call (415) 567-6643, or pager (415) 791-2231, or if you are in possession of Rafe, take him to the SPCA Animal Shelter at 15th and Harrison streets.

Near Cala-mity

Saturday, April 17, 9 p.m., *Cala Foods, Collingwood and 18th streets*: Several customers at Cala Foods reported a shoplifting in progress to Cala's night manager, who spotted the suspect trying to leave the store. At first the suspect was compliant, as the manager recovered over \$150 worth of stolen batteries from the suspect's possession, plus several items from other stores. But as the manager went to call the police, the man picked up some of the recovered batteries and merchandise and bolted for the doors. The manager and a Cala clerk dashed toward the suspect and tackled him, bringing him to the ground. The employees let the suspect go when he wriggled loose and stood up, pulled out a hypodermic needle, and threatened to stab anyone who tried to stop him. The sus-

pect is described as a white male adult, 6 feet 2 inches tall, 160 pounds, with a black mustache. He was last seen running through the Cala garage, wearing a light blue flannel shirt and light gray Dockers pants, and carrying a black backpack. He escaped somewhere into the Collingwood Park area.

Big gulp at 7-11

Sunday, April 18, 9 p.m., 7-11 Store, *Noe and 18th streets*: A man waited outside 7-11 until the store was empty, then rushed in, pointed a black semi-automatic gun at the clerk, and demanded the store's money. The clerk, who had been employed by the store for just three weeks, refused to give the man any money even

though the suspect said "If you don't, I'll kill you." The man continued to wave the gun in the clerk's face, but the clerk reached for the phone and dialed 911. Apparently flustered, the suspect left the store without getting any cash. The suspect is described as a white male adult, in his 30s, 5 feet 8 inches tall, with a slight beard. He was last seen walking eastbound on 18th Street in the direction of Sanchez, wearing a baseball cap, a white and red shirt, and black jogging pants.

Familiarity breeds contempt of court

Tuesday, April 13, *Walgreens, 18th and Castro streets*; and Friday, April 9, 6 p.m., *100 Collingwood Street*: According to the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, Santana Pulido, who is allegedly responsible for several verbal and physical assaults in the Castro, was arrested outside Walgreens on charges of a parole violation. Pulido also was arrested late last month inside Walgreens after he said to the night manager "I'm going to punch you in the face,

you big bull dyke." Officers in the Castro cuffed him outside Walgreens on April 13 and transported him to Mission Station where he was booked for contempt of court.

Pulido had been arrested a few days earlier outside the Eureka Valley Recreation Center for failing to appear in court. As officers spotted Pulido outside the rec center and approached him, a group of kids surrounded arresting Officer Debbie Erdy as she began to cuff him. The kids began shouting for Erdy to leave Pulido alone and to let him go. Fearing the kids were getting out of control, Erdy called for backup and several squad cars arrived on the scene. Pulido was taken into custody without further incident.

Things don't go better with coke

Tuesday, April 13, 8:30 p.m., *Waller Street near Cole*: Two men were spotted on the street in a violent fight, punching and kicking one another. As officers broke up the fight, the men said they were lovers and that they were drunk and had been out all night. Neither of the men wished to press charges against the other, but when officers tried to identify one of the men he became combative and refused to cooperate. The officers cuffed him and took him to Northern Station where he was searched. A sizable amount of suspected cocaine was found on his person and he was booked for possession of a controlled substance. ▼

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs and the men and women of the SFPD who protect and serve you. For information call the office at (415) 553-1651, or Ron at (415) 776-9399; or page him at (415) 201-6004. The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

SFPD warns: turn GHB victims on sides

by Mark Norby

The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) Office of Public Affairs has issued a citywide warning over gamma hydroxy butyrate acid (GHB), a popular party drug, to all San Francisco nightclubs. The warning comes on the heels of numerous overdoses at the city's nightclubs, and escalating emergency room admissions, due to the drug's potentially fatal consequences when combined with alcohol.

Commenting on the hazards of GHB consumption, Sherman Ackerson of the SFPD warns that "if someone in the club is high or unconscious, call for help immediately after laying the person on their side to prevent aspiration [suffocation]."

As a central nervous system depressant, GHB may result in severe respiratory depression, coma, and death. Since it was outlawed in late 1997, over 3,500 GHB overdoses have been re-

ported nationwide and 36 deaths have occurred. Males accounted for over 80 percent of GHB-related deaths; 45 percent of total GHB deaths were young adults between the ages of 20-29.

Since it is often sold as a "natural" alternative to other party drugs - and is sometimes distributed without the user's knowledge of consumption, because it is flavorless when directly mixed with most cocktails - many users are unaware of its dangerous side effects, especially when combined with alcohol.

"The chemical GHB," reads the SFPD's warning, "a Schedule 2 controlled colorless and odorless substance in California, is being brought in water bottles into clubs, where it is distributed among the patrons on the dance floor. It is suggested that door-men and bartenders of the clubs ask patrons to check all water bottles at the coat check area. If the drink was not purchased at the bar, it should not be allowed into the club."

Ackerson added that "it's better to have this warning than to have an undercover officer bust somebody at a bar or club."

GHB carries felony charges for either selling or possessing the substance. Sentencing guidelines determine a \$1,000 fine and up to a year in prison. The SFPD's warning will be distributed to San Francisco nightclubs by the end of April, and clubs that do not comply with the warning guidelines could be held responsible for incidents of overdose on the club's premises.

GHB also presents an added risk for HIV transmission due to enhancement of sexual activity. According to the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH), the pro-sexual properties include reports of disinhibition, heightened sense of touch, enhanced male erection capacity, and increased intensity of orgasm. Users report impaired judgment in regards to safe sex and prolonged sexual encounters, which increases transmission risks. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

New future for old Ambassador

by Dennis Conkin

The Ambassador Hotel, once the last step from homelessness for many low-income San Francisco residents – including people with AIDS – has been purchased for \$4.5 million by Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC). The 18-year-old nonprofit housing corporation owns and manages 16 other apartment buildings and residential hotels in the Tenderloin and Western Addition.

The sale was finalized with the closing of escrow on Monday, April 20.

The 147-room Mason Street single residency occupancy building is in extremely poor condition and currently houses only about 50 residents, according to TNDC Director of Housing Don Falk.

The housing corporation will spend nearly \$4 million in federal AIDS housing funds and local housing bonds and community development block grant funds to rehab the site – a project expected



Sold for \$4.5 million: The Ambassador Hotel.

to take three years, Falk told the Bay Area Reporter.

TNDC was approached by the Lower Eddy Leavenworth Task Force, a neighborhood group of residents, merchants, and activists, to buy the building.

The Ambassador became a pivotal site for neighborhood AIDS prevention and outreach efforts during the 1980s after community workers and AIDS experts noted

the spread of AIDS among injection drug users and other high risk area residents. Later, the Ambassador housed an on-site AIDS social services program for residents, but conditions at the site deteriorated rapidly after the retirement of its AIDS activist manager.

According to Falk, while the renovated Ambassador will provide affordable housing to a mixed residential population,

TNDC is working closely with five local social agencies to create an array of services for people with AIDS who live at the site.

Agencies that will provide services include Baker Place, which serves people with mental illness and substance abuse problems, the Black Coalition on AIDS, and other groups, Falk said.

The housing group will also develop community meeting and social service space – and a rooftop garden overlooking an adjacent 130-space parking lot.

Founded in June 1981, TNDC began as a grassroots community effort to preserve low income housing stock in the multi-cultural and low-income Tenderloin neighborhood.

Since its first purchases, the agency has grown to own and manage more 1,000 units of affordable housing.

TNDC will also purchase the Hotel West, formerly known as the Hotel Zee, a 105-single residential occupancy hotel on Eddy Street that it currently owned the Ambassador's former owner, Falk said. ▼

Fund provides legal tender to Tenderloin

by Dennis Conkin

The Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC) has received a second grant of \$50,000 from a fund started by two onetime San Francisco residents who died of AIDS.

The Silva Watson Moonwalk Fund also gave TARC the same amount last year, according to Paul Causey, the agency's executive director.

"Without support such as this \$50,000 grant, small social service

organizations like TARC, that serve the homeless, would not be able to keep our doors open even with significant government support," he told the Bay Area Reporter. The grant is critical to the agency and will provide funds to cover core costs of operating TARC – and also provide a needed financial float in the times between government reimbursements for services. "The money will let us keep our doors open," Causey added.

The fund was created by Larry Silva and Douglas Watson to pro-

vide benefits as directly as possible to people with HIV and AIDS; the fund plans to make such grants over the next five years until it is exhausted.

TARC provides direct care services to people with AIDS and HIV including case management, treatment education, counseling, daily needs assistance, HIV testing, peer support, and other services.

Located in Tenderloin storefront offices at 187 Golden Gate Avenue (at Leavenworth), the agency also serves as a communi-

ty center for homeless and low-income clients. An estimated 65 percent of TARC clients are people of color and 30 percent are transgendered. In addition to serving 500 clients with HIV, the agency provides safe sex supplies and outreach and prevention services in local venues such as parks and streets.

The agency also operates a late-night drop-in center. ▼

For more information contact TARC at (415) 431-7476.

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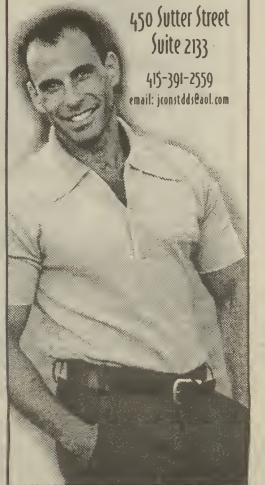
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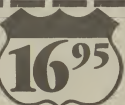
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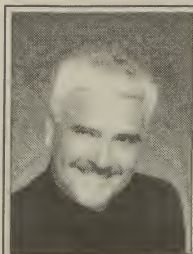


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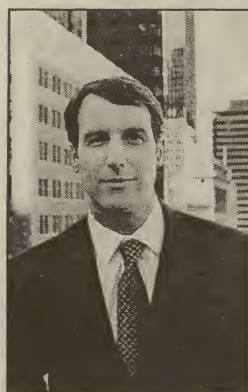
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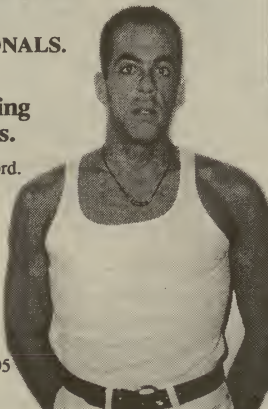
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Havana lesbians launch center with gala Revolucionaria is a cool Cuba Libre with a twist

Interview by
James Balducci

Wearing a breezy pair of pantaloons, Lupita Castro — no relation to Fidel — strolled across the verandah of the Hotel Nacional. The celebrated Cuban lesbian, who accompanied Fidel Castro to Europe two years ago, and is now the director of the openly lesbian *Centro de la Mujer* (Women's Center), is not what one expects to find in this macho-dominated Communist country. But as James Balducci, an Italian nobleman, who visited Havana this month found out, Lupita Castro, Cuba's most vocal and visible lesbian, is a Woman In Control.

The following interview took place at the Hotel Nacional in the suite favored by the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, who frequented Havana in the days before the revolution brought Fidel Castro to power.

Q: Lupita, my love, you look fabulous! How can you deny that you are what your admirers say that you are: A Latina lipstick lesbian?

A: [Laughs] Oh, you are incorrigible! I am diesel all the way.

Well, you certainly don't look like a bull dyke to me, but it's delightful to be in Havana. Especially since the *Centro de la Mujer* had such a successful gala last night. Why did so many people show up?

It's success has to do with social integration. If we announced that we were opening a lesbian center, it would have met with limited success. But by combining it with a social purpose, we achieve two important objectives. First, we show lesbians as an integrated part of society with many interests — we are your daughters, your sisters, your nieces; we are your neighbors, teachers, compatriots. Second, we show that our lives are not defined exclusively by our sexuality, but rather by the entirety of our lives. We are everywhere in society. That's why we chose as our theme, "*Manos en el Tabaco*," precisely because lesbians have a history of participating actively in the tobacco industry in Cuba, and because it is one of the few professions in which we have traditionally participated.

Why is that so?

In Latin America, the spinster stereotype is relatively unknown. For a lesbian to have freedom has meant for a lesbian to choose tough work — working in under the sun of the tropical countryside is not for sissies! — and by administration — the dedicated secretary, the demanding teacher, etc.

This is different from Anglo cultures where lesbians have remained invisible. I remember reading "*Lesbian Nuns*" — my God! Why are those gorgeous dykes doing in a convent? And when they were open, Anglos were so blind — I remember seeing Mrs. Hathaway in *The Beverly Hillbillies* and Barbara Stanwyck in *The Big Valley*, and I thought,



Lupita Castro

How can you not tell? What beautiful lesbians! Those two — and Agnes Moorehead made me realize how invisible lesbians are in general.

That's what we're changing now. We are out, we are part of Cuba's tobacco history, and we are the vanguard.

How many people attended the gala?

The *Ministerio del Interior* [Interior Ministry] estimates the attendance was 1,200, including [Fidel Castro's brother and Army Chief of Staff] General Raul Castro.

All these years, I've heard rumors about Mr. Raul ... do you know his number?

It's 40. [Laughs.] It's inappropriate to speculate on those sorts of things; that's what gays do, not lesbians.

Yeah, right! But you do make an interesting observation: Why have lesbians made more progress in Cuba than gays?

I don't understand. How do you measure "progress?"

Well, I'm not here for the opening of the Men's Center, am I? And I'm not taking back Pedro Zamora Cigars, am I?

[Laughs. Takes a sip of her Cuba Libre. Pauses. Slowly.] Remember the allegory of the grasshopper and the ant? The grasshopper fiddled away all summer while the ant worked — and when winter came, the grasshopper was hungry and the ant was warm and well-fed?

That is the difference between gays and lesbians here. Gays are like the grasshopper — walk a few blocks from here and there they are, in front of the park of the *Habana Libre*, loitering, looking for foreign tricks. Lesbians, on the other hand, are quietly working behind the scenes, making things

happen.

What most people do not understand is that in this system — this communist system — we are afforded tremendous freedom to maneuver. Just frame your argument in Marxist orthodoxy, and you can get away with anything. Let's face it: we are subversives, but so what? This revolution was the product of subversion itself!

Lesbianism subverts traditional societal views — phallogocentric views — and this revolution was the product of a decade-long subversion.

Subverting subversion is the irony of lesbian affirmation of identity.

To look at it another way: I normally dress in combat boots and camouflage surplus pants. When I'm walking the streets of New York, in Los Angeles, even in San Francisco, I get looks. People stare with disapproving looks in their eyes.

"Fucking dyke," I can hear them think.

But here in Havana, I walk down the street in my combat boots and camouflage pants — and guess what? Everyone assumes I'm a *Revolucionaria*, a militant supporter of the revolution! I command respect! Dressed in the uniform of a diesel dyke, I become not a subject for derision, but a person worthy of respect!

That's the difference between capitalism, where as a diesel dyke my worth as a human being is devalued, and communism, where I am seen as a hero because my very existence subverts the conformity of a male-dominated paradigm! And people respect that.

That's one reason why I'll never leave Cuba.

I mean, I feel so sorry for American dykes! Their lives are so hard! They work so much, at such low pay, and their lives in the United States are of material want and need. So few dykes are successful — I'm not naming names — and those who are turn their backs on the disenfranchised community by not defending civil

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

rights and justice.

When I'm in San Francisco, the only thing lesbians want to do is stay home, watch *Xena* on TV, and have cheap pizza delivered. Why? Because they can't afford anything else! And here I am, in this Third World country, confronting a trade embargo, and yet, I can afford to watch those hot mulatta babes shake their stuff at the Tropicana! And I can afford to mock America with my Lewinsky Cigar! And I can live it up without having to work dead-end jobs to benefit an economy that despises me because I refuse to worship the penis!

How did it end up this way?

And you don't work – at least not that much, right?

Neither do you, James! You're an Italian nobleman who's never worked a day in his life!

Now that you mention it, you're right. But if I'm not working and you're not working, then who's working?

The Americans and the Japanese. That's why they're stuck in those horrible commuter rush hour traffic jams!

Well, they can keep it that way. More Power Books and cell

phones and whatever it takes to make sure that you and I can enjoy lives of leisure!

Amen, Comrade! Amen to that!

What was it like realizing you were a lesbian in a Communist society?

It was interesting, because homosexuality *per se* is not something that was discussed. And you have to understand that though Cuba is communist, it is also Latin. By that I mean that, officially, "homosexuality" is a bourgeois decadent perversity. But in real life, it was seen – and is seen – as a "disability." And it depends on the level of culture of the person: some people think it is a calamity, like being blind; others think it is an inconvenience, like stuttering; yet others are oblivious to it and don't notice it until it is pointed out, like being left-handed.

In my family, it was understood from an early age that I was not like my sisters; we are five; three girls and two boys. I always enjoyed playing sports with my brothers and I was in awe of the beautiful *Compañeras* [comrades] I saw. Women served in uniform in all kinds of positions; that's what struck me the most when I went to the United States. In Cuba, one is used to seeing blacks



More than 700 people attended the Manos en el Tabaco lesbian event in Havana, which Lupita Castro says is only the beginning.

and women in positions of authority, but in the United States blacks and women are systematically excluded from authority.

So growing up and realizing that my sexuality was different – I wanted to kiss a woman, and boys were never a part of my longings – was very easy, since so many beautiful, strong, and powerful women were around me.

I know my mother picked up on it, and we discussed it – she brought it up. But I have never had any conversation about it with my father. But he knows, simply because my mother spoke to him about me. It's funny, because he would ask me why I didn't go out on dates with boys, if I was shy or thought I wasn't pretty, or what.

How can you tell your father that you can't even imagine what you could do with a boy in the first place!

But after my mother spoke to

him, one afternoon, when I was putting on my UJC [Union de Jóvenes Comunistas, or the Communist Youth Union] uniform – and I really did look "butch" – he came over and wanted to see me.

"Lupita," he said, "I want you to know that I'm not going to ask you again why you're not dating any boy. Because I know why. And it doesn't matter to me, as long as you are happy and a good person."

I was so happy! I kissed him on the top of his bald, sun-scorched head – I can still smell the sweat on his head – and I said, "Are you disappointed in me?"

He didn't say anything, but he did shake his head. Then, he added, "Well, at least I won't have to worry about your getting pregnant!"

My sister Carmen had gotten pregnant two years before this – imagine, an unwed daughter living at home and my father having

to play dad to his own grandson!

When was this?

About four years ago.

Has he ever asked any question about your personal life?

All the time! We Cubans are very frank! And my father will say things like, "Why are you going out with so-and-so – she's uglier than the drunk down the street" or "If your girlfriend is so great, why are you in such a bad mood? Tell her that – for my sake – she should give you better orgasms!"

Was he there last night?

No, he was ill.

Okay, Lupita, I have got to check out the park in Old Havana like you suggested. Time for only one more question: What happens now to the Centro de la Mujer?

This is only the beginning! We are going to establish our presence in forceful manner. [Mexican Ambassador to Cuba, who is bisexual] Pedro Joaquín Coldwell has invited me to Mexico City where I plan to meet with [lesbian Congresswoman] Patria Jiménez. Mexico and Cuba are the forefront of gay and lesbian rights in Latin America and we are determined to make sure that our voices are heard throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

The fact that we are located in the Hotel Nacional – Cuba's most historic hotel – speaks volumes of the access and role and visibility we anticipate having in the Cuba of the 21st century.

Just thinking about it, my juices are flowing! ▼

AIDS money scam hits Puerto Rico court

by Nelson Del Castillo, UPI

A trial in the U.S. District Court in Puerto Rico over \$2 million diverted from the now-defunct San Juan AIDS Institute has become like a novel that Puerto Ricans are following with alarm.

Known as the "Kouri Case," it takes its name from Cuban doctor Yamil Kouri, who heads the list of people accused of using \$2 million meant to treat AIDS patients for their personal benefit and to make illegal campaign contributions.

During the case's 16 days in court, the names of Governor Pedro Rossello and former San Juan Mayor Hector Luis Acevedo – who headed the main opposition party but has retired from politics – have frequently been mentioned as beneficiaries of money meant for the AIDS Institute.

On Monday, April 12 the names of Edison Mislá Aldarondo and Jose Granados Navedo – the president and vice president of Puerto Rico's House of Representatives – also came up.

The case was turned over to U.S. federal authorities by former pro-independence legislator David Noriega, who is against the court's presence in the commonwealth.

Noriega said, "It was the only guarantee the case would be taken to the end."

He wants Rossello and Acevedo held responsible in the case for not acting promptly to stop the corruption.

A tape recording made by the FBI in 1997 and presented by federal prosecutors on Monday shows the former manager of Advanced Community Health Services (ACHS), Jeanette Sotomayor Vazquez, inducing her then-domestic employee Josefa Navarro Ocasio to lie to the authorities about the money.

The health group, headed by Kouri, ran San Juan's AIDS Institute, which obtained funds from

the U.S. government. Kouri founded the AIDS Institute in the late 1980s, when the current governor worked as San Juan's director of health.

In one of the three recordings presented by prosecutor, Sotomayor Vazquez said Rossello and Acevedo received a considerable amount of money. She also said Mislá Aldarondo's and Granados Navedo's political campaigns received contributions from the AIDS Institute's money.

She attributed Kouri's appointment to the money he gave to Rossello's campaign, allegedly \$250,000. The politicians involved have denied knowingly receiving contributions from the AIDS Institute.

So far, former Senator Edgardo Rosario Burgos has pleaded guilty of receiving nearly \$250,000 from the institute for his political campaign.

Armando Borrell, another ACHS officer, is being charged in this trial along with Kouri and Sotomayor Vazquez.

A second trial is set to open to try more people accused in the case, including several prominent doctors.

U.S. News and World Report columnist Paul Bedard reported on April 20 that Vice President Al Gore has picked Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Rossello to chair his presidential campaign there, and that "Rossello has been tangled up" in the Kouri case. Bedard wrote that the workers "are charged with stealing federal AIDS funding to buy political favors from island leaders such as Rossello."

U.S. News also pointed out that "the governor denies the charge, and he's been notified by the Justice Department that he is not a target." Even so, AIDS activists question the vice president's choice. Bedard quoted Wayne Turner of ACT UP/Washington saying Gore "should at the very least keep his distance from Rossello until this case is cleared up." ▼

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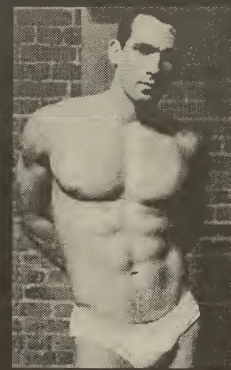


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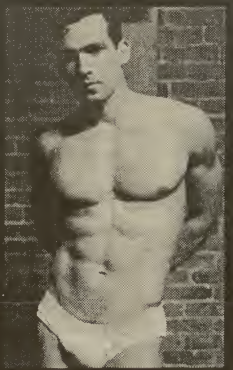
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Feinstein urges support for James Hormel

by Wayne Friday

United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, speaking to 100 gay and lesbian supporters at her San Francisco home, recently urged them to help get gay philanthropist James Hormel appointed ambassador to Luxembourg by writing or sending telegrams to President Clinton, urging him to make an interim appointment of the San Francisco activist.

Such an appointment could be made without the approval of the Senate and would remain in effect until the end of the Clinton administration. Feinstein said she felt Hormel could likely win confirmation by the Senate, but also stated her belief that Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott would never allow such a vote to occur. Thus, the senator pointed out, it would take an "interim" appointment by the president to make Hormel an ambassador.



Ambassador Stephen Brady

Calling Hormel "a longtime friend" who would make an excellent envoy, Feinstein said she has personally asked Clinton to make such an appointment. However, she felt more visible support would help and urged those in attendance to immediately contact the White House to make the same request, and to persuade their friends to do so as well.

Hormel's appointment would

not be unprecedented in diplomatic circles. Mexico has a bisexual ambassador, Pedro Joaquín Coldwell, and Ambassador Stephen Brady of Australia recently made history by becoming the first foreign diplomat to present his same-sex partner to the Queen of Denmark. Brady, a former adviser to Australia's prime minister and the country's new ambassador to Sweden (with accreditation to Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Finland, Lithuania, Norway and Latvia) officially presented his partner, Peter Stevens, to Denmark's Queen Margrethe. Denmark is the first country in the world to allow same-sex civil marriages, and officials in Copenhagen said it was the first time an ambassador had officially introduced his or her gay partner to the Danish royal family.

Brady, a 39-year-old career diplomat, took up his appointment as ambassador to Denmark in February. As Brady's legal spouse, Stevens gets free travel with his partner, a clothing allowance, and use of the diplomatic limousine. Under certain conditions, such as official functions, he would be eligible for a payment, a foreign affairs spokesman said.

Brady's sexual orientation was irrelevant, according to the spokesperson, who observed that "under Australian law it is illegal to discriminate on the grounds of sexuality."

Hormel also has a same-sex partner, but he has publicly stated that his partner would not be moving with him to Luxembourg, a largely Catholic country. ▼

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Two of three Rhode Island candidates for Congress may be gay

by Peter Cassels

Until Thursday, April 1, Rhode Island had only one openly gay elected official. Now, for the first time in history, there are two. It's almost an embarrassment of riches for the state's gay and lesbian community.

State Representative David Cicilline, (D-Providence/Pawtucket), came out in the *Providence Journal*, the state's largest daily, on April Fools' Day. It was no joke. Like Rhode Island's other gay politician, state Representative Mike Pisaturo, (D-Cranston), Cicilline is considering running for U.S. Congress. Pisaturo announced Wednesday, March 24, he is forming an exploratory committee, the first step in making a bid.

The potential candidates almost could be twins. Cicilline, 37, is now in his third term. Pisaturo, who turns 36 April 14, is in his second. Both have considerable name recognition, progressive voting records, Italian ancestry, and deep family roots in the Ocean State. They are strongly pro-choice and pro-labor. Each claims he could get union support to run for the 2nd District seat being vacated by Democrat U.S. Representative Robert Weyand, who'll run for the U.S. Senate. Endorsements by both camps could assure victory in the 2000 Democratic primary. The state AFL-CIO will not formally endorse anyone until its annual convention in 2000, but by this fall labor will have made up its mind. Even if a strong moderate Republican contender emerges (to date no GOP candidate has declared), Rhode Island quite possibly could send a gay man to Congress in 2001.

Providence Journal political columnist Charles Bakst wrote a Cicilline profile published April 1 as part of a series on possible candidates. "I asked if he was gay," Bakst explained. "He said, 'yes.' This is only my personal observation, but I think he was relieved." In the column, Bakst wrote: "If you want someone whose story, outlook, and passion are not the ho hum, same old stuff, state Representative David Cicilline may be your guy."

In an interview, Cicilline said his sexuality was never a secret: "I've told anyone who has asked about my sexual orientation. I have never made it an issue. Mr. Bakst presented in an appropriate way one of the many facts [about me]. It is just another part of being who I am."

Impressive credentials

Cicilline will decide within the next few weeks whether he will run. "I've done a lot of ground-work already," he said. "I've begun to put together a collection of people to see if it's a viable option. I'm very serious about doing it. I've talked to groups about fundraising resources, and various people in the political community who have worked on my campaigns for the Legislature. The response has been very positive." Cicilline has been in touch with the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which thus far has not taken a position on the Rhode Island campaign.

His credentials are impressive.

A criminal defense lawyer, he is an adjunct law professor and board member and volunteer attorney with the American Civil Liberty Union's state affiliate. Cicilline is co-president of the Rhode Island Project AIDS board of directors and board chair of Very Special Arts Rhode Island, which provides opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in the visual and performing arts. He also serves on a number of other nonprofit boards and government and professional committees.

Cicilline's political and community connections will serve him well if he decides to seek a seat in Congress. He expects he'll have to raise between \$1 and \$1.5 million to conduct a viable campaign. "I think I would obviously be raising money from people in the gay, religious, ethnic and legal communities," he said. "I've developed lots of good working relationships with these people."

Cicilline has a strong pro-choice legislative history. One of his current bills has raised the ire of the Catholic Church, and he's in an ongoing battle in the diocesan weekly newspaper. The legislation would protect access to public health facilities and clinics where reproductive services are dispensed. "There's so much rabid opposition on this issue that it has become dangerous to work in clinics," Cicilline stressed. Right-to-life extremists have said the bill is another attempt to curb their constitutional rights.

If he does run, he'll campaign on a platform addressing health-care, public education, and the plight of the poor. "I served four years on the House Health, Welfare, and Education Committee, where I've gained tremendous knowledge," he said. "It's clear to me that we need some federal response in our healthcare crisis. We have people who have no insurance or are underinsured, and people who are not physicians making [treatment] decisions. We have gotten to the point where people are losing control over their health care. We need to take a serious effort in Congress to respond to the crisis."

He has introduced one of several "Freedom of Pharmacy Choice" bills. The controversial legislation pits insurance companies against health care advocates and major prescription outlets.

"I'm also really concerned about public schools," Cicilline stated. "We need to assure we are providing a quality education. Decisions on planning and policy should be on the local level, but the federal government needs to make a stronger commitment."

He also wants to protect reproductive freedom for women and work on civil rights issues, particularly for people of color as well as gays and lesbians. "I have a background as a civil rights litigator," he explained. "Many of the issues we work on are substance addiction, teen pregnancy, and unemployment, which result in people becoming involved in the justice system. As a public defender and private attorney, I have seen the consequences of government not providing solutions to these problems."

Gay split?

Rhode Island gays and lesbians are overjoyed that two gay legisla-



Gay Rhode Island state Representatives David Cicilline and Mike Pisaturo

tors now are in the Statehouse, but there's concern that two potential Congressional candidates might split the community.

"We are quite pleased to have two openly gay state reps," said Kate Monteiro, president of the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. "While it's certainly everyone's choice when and how to come out, we're happy David has chosen to be so public and honest. We think both make great examples for others in the state. The Alliance will not make an endorsement for this or any other Congressional race, but I think both would be strong candidates for higher office. We would be pleased with either representing Rhode Island."

The candidates seem to agree that both should not run. "I would be delighted to have Representative Pisaturo support me if I decide to run," Cicilline said. "We've worked on lots of issues together. I would never ask another candidate not to run. I hope within the coming weeks if I decide to do it, Mike will support me." Pisaturo said only one gay candidate should be in the race. "Potential candidates should talk to each other," he said. "We have to be practical. These are major races with a lot at stake. It doesn't make sense for two people who agree on issues to run."

He said they need to decide who has the best chance of winning. "We both have support from

the gay, pro-choice, [and other progressive] communities. Between the two of us, I most certainly would get the endorsement of labor. To me that is critical. I think David is a very intelligent man, a man of firm conviction and strong ideals. I'm very proud of a lot of what David's accomplished, [but] even he would agree that my record voting on labor is stronger. While his is not poor, mine is superlative."

Monteiro said she personally believes that if the progressive community wants to get a candidate through the primary process and elected to Congress, "We will need to unite behind a candidate and not divide our vote."

A crucial factor may be who gets the blessing of House Speaker John Harwood, a Democratic power broker. Cicilline has a leg up over any of the other current or potential candidates. Secretary of State Jim Langevin has the greatest name recognition and is expected to announce soon, but is not pro-choice and likely at the top of Harwood's black list because of a report he issued stating that the Legislature does much of its work behind closed doors. Both Cicilline and Pisaturo offended the speaker by voting against his choice for house majority leader. However, Cicilline mended fences with the leadership while Pisaturo has not. ▼

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Busted beer busts upset community and defund ASOs

by Mark Norby

Since the state Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) agency began taking measures to close down the city's beer busts and beer benefit events, starting with the Lone Star Saloon in the South of Market District, both the local gay community and groups that receive donations through the events have reacted with sharp displeasure.

The ABC warned the Lone Star Saloon last month that beer busts and benefits will be allowed no longer because they are "unlicensed events" that promote "an uncontrolled amount of alcohol to be outgoing from the bar." Now the reality of the loss of such events is becoming apparent: a quick drop in important resources that support and sustain the city's AIDS service organizations (ASOs).

"The loss of beer busts will have a profound effect on our organization," AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) President Rick Salinas told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We are highly dependent on those events and receive considerable donations from them."

Salinas said beer busts and benefits held at several bars in San Francisco bring in money to support AEF. "An event that brings in considerable donations is the Bare Chest Calendar contest," Salinas added, an event held every two weeks through the spring at bars like the Powerhouse, usually with a beer benefit as part of the festivities.

The ABC cracked down on beer busts after the International Bear Rendezvous weekend in mid-February when, according to ABC District Administrator Michael Tyrel, "a couple of guys from Los Angeles called the San Francisco offices of the ABC complaining that a beer bust was taking place at the Lone Star." Tyrel said the events were banned in Los Angeles sometime last year, and that they are not allowed in any part of California, because the ABC is concerned they might lead to bartenders serving customers who have already had too much to drink.

But as 58-year-old San Francisco resident Larry Wendhausen told the *B.A.R.*, "You can get



The Lone Star's legendary beer busts have even given rise to art, such as this oil painting by local artist Jim Leff.

drunk no matter if the bar charges for a single refillable cup, or if you pay standard prices for drinks.

"When I go to the beer busts at the Lone Star, I only drink a couple of beers, so the idea that there is an 'uncontrolled amount of alcohol' leaving the bar doesn't apply," Wendhausen added. "I'm sure that's true for a lot of guys that go to the events."

One cancellation and counting

AIDS Benefits Counselors Positive Resource Center, an AIDS organization that, like AEF, receives significant donations from beer busts and benefits, canceled a beer benefit that was to be held at the Lone Star Saloon on Saturday, April 10. "Beer benefits raise crucial money for Positive Resource Center as well as the AEF," said Ken Bukowski, the center's executive director. "The events allow unrestricted support and we will now be left to finding more creative ways to raise money. The loss of the events will deeply impact our organization."

Tyrel told the *B.A.R.* that AIDS organizations are free to rent public halls for beer busts and benefits. "If the particular organization wants to raise money, they are free to do so on their own by renting a public hall. The organization in this situation is granted a one-day license to sell alcohol where they could sell tickets for [refillable] cups for beer, like those events at the bars. Then the organization receives all the money directly."

He added, "If a bar or club wants to hold a benefit event, then the proper action for the bar owner to take would be to advertise the event as such, charge standard prices for drinks, then follow the event with a set donation which would go to the specific charity." Beer busts and benefits typically cost \$6 to \$8 per cup, allowing the cup's holder an opportunity to refill as many times as desired.

Tyrel also denied that beer benefits are being singled out as events that promote "uncontrolled drinking," when other fundraising events advertising "open bars" are left alone. "We are responsible for monitoring all events around the city, whether it's a benefit for the opera or any other type of event," he said. "But we have limited resources."

Tyrel's denial aside, patrons suspect the ABC of specifically harassing gay events and of using concern about uncontrolled

drinking as a cover. Many Lone Star beer bust customers have suggested ways around the prohibition, including the idea that host bars print language on the tickets to the effect that management reserves the right to refuse refills to those who appear noticeably intoxicated.

Tyrel brushed the suggestion aside. "Issuing tickets with disclaimers on them is getting a little sticky," he said. "Bar owners will be allowed to hold beer benefits where they charge, say, \$1 per bottle of beer. That way there is some control on the amount of alcohol leaving the bar."

Not dollars, but thousands

"Anyway," Tyrel continued, "I'm not all that convinced that beer busts or benefits actually raise a lot of money for charity. A \$6 check issued to a charity after the beer bust is over is not raising significant money in my opinion."

Bukowski rebutted Tyrel's statement, saying, "These benefits raise significant money for Positive Resource Center. There are so many beer busts around the city and they happen on a very regular basis. We receive anywhere between \$15,000 to \$20,000 each year from the benefits. I don't know where he [Tyrel] comes up with \$6."

Salinas also pointed out that "some bars may not raise a lot of money, but it means a lot to them to be able to sponsor these events. For example, the Wooden Horse [on Polk Street near Turk] ran an event a while back and raised \$123. While that's not a lot of money, it meant so much to the owners to be able to help the community in this way that they repeated the events for several months and raised a total of \$1,500. The owners were delighted to be able to do this, especially since it is a very small bar and they have a very limited income."

"On the other hand," Salinas continued, "the old SF Eagle [now the Eagle Tavern] used to raise considerable money. Without the events we wouldn't be where we are today as an organization that is here to fight AIDS."

The ABC may still provide a citation to the owners and management at the Lone Star Saloon, making the initial warning effective. After the Lone Star Saloon received the warning from the ABC, Lone Star Saloon owner Kevin Owens has decided to sell only individual bottles at a reduced price at the beer benefits. ▼

Chefs come together for AEF dinner

by Cynthia Laird

Some of the Bay Area's finest chefs will once again be preparing some fabulous food at the AIDS Emergency Fund's annual awards dinner set for this Monday, April 26 at the San Francisco Marriott. The theme for this year's gala is "Hey, Old Friend."

In addition to the gourmet delights, the event will feature AEF's unique and popular silent auction, live entertainment, and awards presented to over 15 individuals, organizations, and businesses for their commitment to AEF in the battle against AIDS.

AEF provides financial assistance to eligible people living with AIDS and disabling HIV throughout San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties. The organization, which started in San Francisco's

leather community 17 years ago, has no paid executive director and one of the lowest administrative overheads of any local AIDS service organization (ASO). In fact, AEF spends nearly 90 percent of every dollar for the benefit of clients. Since 1982, AEF has disbursed \$12.5 million in the form of grants towards rent, utility, telephone, and uninsured medical expenses.

The line-up of chefs preparing their signature dishes includes: Ross Browne of Absinthe Brasserie & Bar; Karl Mason of Ciao Bella Gelato; Elizabeth Falkner of Citizen Cake; Stephen Janke and Erik Souza of Cypress Club; Marc Valiani of Elroy's; Duilio Valenti of Frantoio; Derek Burns of Knives & Fire; Jody Denton and Robert Murphy of Restaurant Lulu; Otto Eckstein of Restaurant Pacific; James Ormsby of Roti restaurant; Jim



Bay Area chefs will prepare a host of culinary delights for the AEF annual dinner on Monday, April 26.

Gemignani, David Hollands, and William Holt of the San Francisco Marriott Hotel; James Foran of Silks at Mandarin Oriental; Giovanni Perticone of Splendido;

Chris Yeo of Straits Cafe; and Hanna Kapitunlik of Zibibbo.

This year's Heart of Gold Award recipient is Bob Ross, publisher of the *Bay Area Reporter*. Other awardees are: Keith Truitt, who'll receive the Hank Cook Outstanding Service Award; Russell Kassman and Garry McClain, aka Marlene, George Burgess Founder's Award; former AEF board president Loren Berthelsson, Zachary Long Hall of Fame Award; John Richards and Joaquin Sanchez, Fred Skau Outstanding Volunteer Award; and Vince Finkowski and the AEF coat check volunteers, Darrell Yee Community Volunteer Award.

AEF will present community recognition awards to: the 15 Association, Emperor XXVI Fred Lewis, Empress XXXIII Alexis Miranda, the 1998 AEF Christmas Eve Dinner Committee, Todd Kopus, the

Pine Street Volunteers, the Powerhouse, and Eugene Sieber.

Entertainment will be provided by San Francisco cabaret singers Zorina London, Julie Paris, Anthony LaMotta, and the popular Larry O'Leno and his Quintet.

As in previous years, the San Francisco Marriott is donating the use of their facilities and staff for the evening. Individual tickets are \$100 per person. ▼

'Dine for a Change' Friday to help San Francisco Women Against Rape

by Cynthia Laird

Fourteen local restaurants, cafes, and businesses will help publicize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and contribute to San Francisco Women Against Rape (SFWAR), by taking part in the third annual "Dine for a Change" this Friday, April 23.

Mimi Kuo, SFWAR's development director, said a portion of revenue from the participating establishments will go to SFWAR, and the event will remind diners that while April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, it takes an ongoing, year-round effort to end sexual violence. Kuo said the innovative fundraising and public awareness campaign allows many community members to help SFWAR, while treating themselves to a good time.

"Our allies at these community-oriented establishments are helping us make an important point during Sexual Assault Awareness Month," said Patricia Zand from SFWAR's board of di-

rectors and chair of the event planning committee. "Dine for a Change helps raise the visibility of the problem of rape and sexual assault and also engages community and business support in ending sexual violence."

This year, a variety of participating businesses in several neighborhoods are open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, offering a range of delicacies at a range of prices. The 14 businesses taking part in tomorrow's event are: Amira, Bi-Rite market, Cafe Mars (proceeds from lunch only), Cafe Istanbul, Delfina, Lupann's, Magnolia Pub & Brewery, Mangiafuoco, Mariachi's, Miss Millie's, Rasoi, Side by Side, Tita's Hale'Aina, and Vineria. Reservations are recommended, organizers said.

Founded in 1973, SFWAR is a grassroots, majority women of color rape crisis center. The agency's 24-hour hotline offers crisis intervention, counseling, and referrals to survivors of sexual assault and their friends and families. In addition, the organization offers legal and medical ad-

vocacy, short-term peer counseling, support groups, and a range of prevention and self-defense programs for teens and adults. Services are free, confidential, and available in 13 languages. ▼

For more information, call Mimi Kuo at (415) 861-2024, ext. 301. The 24-hour crisis line is (415) 647-7273.

Past Out

◀ page 11

each honoring someone who had died of AIDS.

After the 1987 march, activists Rob Eichberg and Jean O'Leary had the idea to hold an annual remembrance called National Coming Out Day (NCOD). Eichberg had been disheartened to find that many of the march's participants came home and immediately went back into the closet. NCOD was designed as a day when people could help end gay visibility. Held first on October 11, 1988, the anniversary of the march, the commemoration has grown every year since.

The '93 march

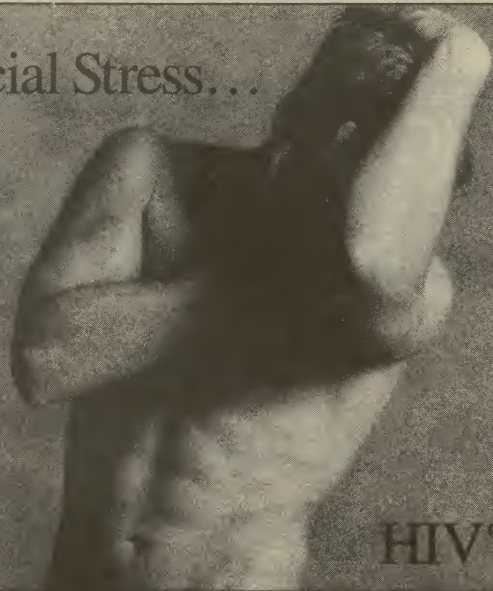
The third march on Washington occurred on April 25, 1993, and was the biggest by far - approximately three-quarters of a million people. Unlike the first two, this march received substantial mainstream media coverage. At that time, the furor over President Clinton's attempt to end the ban on gays in the military had

reached its height. Clinton declined to speak in person at the rally, though he sent a letter that was read aloud and booed by many. Comedian Lea DeLaria set a cynical tone, drawing reproach for her controversial joke (telecast on C-SPAN) that Hillary Clinton was "a First Lady you could fuck" and singing a humorous rendition of "We Are a Gentle, Angry People" from the first march.

At the heart of the event, though, were gay Coloradans, who were waging a fierce battle over the passage of Amendment 2, an anti-gay referendum. (It was overturned by the Supreme Court in 1996.) The Colorado delegation marched with stark, black-and-white banners that read "Under Siege" and "Ground Zero." ▼

David Bianco, M.A., is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at DaveBianco@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.gay.com.

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Financial update for PWAs on Medicare

by Thomas P. McCormack

Newly-announced 1999 income eligibility levels can mean an extra \$45.50 monthly in Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) checks and extra medical benefits for people with AIDS (PWAs) who have survived the two-year wait for Medicare.

PWAs with SSDI and other income under \$947 monthly will see a \$45.50 Medicare Part B premium, which was being deducted, restored to their checks once the Specified Low Income Medicare beneficiary (SLIMB) and Qualified Individual (I) QI (I) programs begin paying it for them.

Those with SSDI and other income under \$707 per month will not only get the premium paid for them and have the \$45.50 restored to their SSDI checks – the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program will also pay the \$768 hospital admission deductible, the \$100 annual doctor bill deductible, and the 20 percent of doctor and outpatient bills that Medicare doesn't cover.

Both SLIMB/QI (I) and QMB are run by state Medicaid programs through local welfare offices – not Social Security offices – even though they involve federal Medicare benefits. To be eligible for both SLIMB/QI (I) and QMB, one can have assets up to \$4,000, an automobile and a lived-in home of any value. An additional \$1,500 in savings is permitted if it's kept separately from other money and the applicant plans to use it for burial.

Applications are taken at local welfare offices, not at Social Security

branches. Those applying should bring birth certificates, bank account and other asset records, deeds, mortgages, auto registrations, and driver's license or other proof of identity and residency. Most importantly, applicants need to show their Medicare cards and the latest letter from Social Security establishing what their SSDI benefit total is. (Call 800-772-1213 for a new one if you've lost the letter.)

In computing eligibility, it's the total SSDI amount that counts against the \$947 and \$707 income levels. SSDI checks only show the net amount – after the \$45.50 has been deducted. So, in computing total income, one must add the \$45.50 Medicare Part H deduction back onto the net SSDI check amount.

Applicants for SLIMB or QMB at the welfare office now can bring a \$45.50 increase in total income for those who qualify – and coverage of Medicare deductibles and co-payments as well for those who get the more generous QMB coverage.

Back at work?

SSDI beneficiaries can keep their Medicare even if they return to work – and they should do so, even if they secure employer health coverage. When you have a serious illness, two health insurance policies in force beat only one, and, besides, Medicare covers some things private coverage doesn't, and it won't lapse (like the employer plan will if you are laid off or become too sick to work again). Medicare coverage is available – for a lifetime, even after returning to work – act long as one continues to have the con-

dition which originally qualified one for SSDI.

For those who are working, QMB and SLIMB/QI (I) disregard (that is, don't count) \$65 and half the rest of gross earnings per month, and out-of-pocket medical expenses you pay yourself, before comparing your net countable income to their eligibility levels. This means that someone who has given up SSDI to resume work can have gross monthly earnings of \$1,939 or more and still get SLIMB/QI (I) to pay his \$45.50 premium. And to get QMB to pay the premium and also deductibles and co-payments, one can have total monthly wage of \$1,459 or more.

And, after 45 months back at work, Medicare Part A starts charging a premium too (\$170 if you paid FICA payroll taxes for at least 7.5 years over your whole working life, or \$309 if you paid those taxes for less time before you became disabled). But those with gross monthly earnings under \$2,831 or more can have the welfare office's Qualified Disabled Working Individual (QDWI) program pay their Part A premiums when they come due.

Coverage for drugs and other items

Medicare, QMB, or SLIMB/QI (I) won't help with prescription drugs or care outside the Medicare benefit package. Medicaid does so – for those who are eligible. Those applying for QMB or SLIMB/QI (I) at welfare offices in California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Maine, New Jersey, and Rhode Island should remember that Medicaid levels there are as high as –

or almost as high as – the QMB levels. So it would pay to ask for "full" Medicaid (called MediCal in California) as well, while applying for QMB or SLIMB/QI (I).

Those who can't qualify for Medicaid might be eligible for their state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which has much higher income limits. Call (800) 432-AIDS to find out how to contact your state's ADAP program. But if persons with HIV can't get the coverage or the drugs they need from Medicaid or ADAP – and they live in Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, or New Jersey – there are state generic drug assistance programs, which also use income levels higher than Medicaid's. (These states' general drug programs are separate from ADAP; they're for all needy disabled people and pre-date the AIDS crisis). Call the city or county aging office (even if you're not elderly) to get details about these separate drug programs in these five states.

For those not covered by any

of these programs, the AIDS Treatment Data Network (800-734-7104) has a list of free AIDS drug programs run by distributors; the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (202-835-3400) and the Senate Aging committee (202-224-5364) have lists of free programs for all kinds of drugs run by the industry, and patients' doctors can order free prescriptions for those who have no other way to pay. ▼

Thomas McCormack handled Medicare and Medicaid with the Health Care Financing Administration, authored the AIDS Benefits Handbook (Yale University Press), and did public benefits advocacy for the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA), the Maryland Disability Entitlement Advocacy Program and Affording Care. He now works with the Title II Community AIDS National Network.

Strip search suit

◀ page 1

but added that it's "premature for that to be considered."

Clarence said that as a taxpayer, she doesn't want the city to pay Lew's fine, adding that the city "would be ratifying his misconduct" if it pays the judgment for him. "Why should the taxpayers pay for that?"

Anguished testimony

Last Thursday, Schneider took the witness stand and was emotional as she told the jury about the events of June 13, 1996, when she was arrested by San Francisco Police Officer Robert Porter on a solicitation charge. Schneider was then transported to the county jail where deputies were confused about her gender. Porter had initially written "M" for male on Schneider's field arrest card even though Schneider insisted she was female. The card was later changed with the "M" crossed out and "F" for female written in.

Schneider said her pleas to deputies at the jail to check a computer database that would confirm she's a female were ignored and that she was strip searched by a female deputy after Lew booked her into jail as a male. Schneider told the jury that the female deputy, who she could not identify other than to say the deputy was wearing the distinctive green uniform of the sheriff's department, took her into a room off the hallway and told her to strip.

"The deputy asked me for my wig," Schneider testified, adding that she was ordered to spread her legs, spread her buttocks, and spread her vagina. She was forced to remove her dental plates, which she had to place on a dirty table. After the strip search, Schneider was told to dress and given her dental plates back, but the deputy kept Schneider's wig.

On direct examination, Schneider was asked by Clarence why she wanted her wig back. "I felt embarrassed, my hair is not very attractive, and I didn't want to go back [to the holding area] without it."

Clarence displayed an enlarged photo taken of Schneider without her wig to the jury as she asked more questions, and Schneider became more emotional, finally breaking into tears. "The women

who were there [in the booking area] before, they saw me coming and started laughing. They saw I was different. I didn't have any hair. All the deputies were looking over at me, laughing because I looked different than I looked before. I didn't have my hair on. I was so scared. I was crying.

"I felt my rights were violated and I felt humiliated," Schneider testified.

The sheriff department's policy on strip searches, according to Eileen Hirst, chief of staff to Sheriff Mike Hennessey, is that they are performed on arrestees if they are charged with a crime involving drugs, weapons, or violence; if detainees have a recent criminal history involving drugs or weapons; or where there's an appropriate custodial reason to do so.

In court documents, longtime jail medic Mike Fowler testified that in June 1996, his evaluation of Schneider showed "no symptoms" of drug addiction.

In court documents and during the trial, Schneider, whose last gender reassignment surgeries were performed in 1992, said she had previously taken copies of her birth certificate and other documents to sheriff's department personnel following a 1993 incident in which she was placed in a male holding cell and then strip searched. Schneider said she talked with Hirst to ask what she needed to do to avoid a similar incident. Following that conversation, Schneider took the documents to the Hall of Justice.

During the defense portion of the trial, a deposition from Hirst was read during which Hirst stated she had a "vague recollection" of receiving a phone call from Schneider, however, Hirst stated that she could not envision telling Schneider to take documents to the Hall of Justice. Asked if it was possible she received a call from Schneider, Hirst replied, "Anything is possible."

The jury also heard from Porter, the arresting officer, who admitted on cross examination that he repeatedly referred to Schneider as a male during his deposition, even after he was advised by his attorney to refer to her as a female.

Schneider is no longer working as a prostitute and has a job doing HIV outreach through the University of California, San Francisco. ▼

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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Joseph Poole III

May 12, 1962 — April 12, 1999

Joe passed into God's light on April 12, 1999. He will be missed by all who knew his humor and generosity. Joe had the ability to make people he knew feel like they were special. He is survived by his sisters Jeannie Bohn and Peggy Popewell, friends Rick Rodriguez, Allen Bunyard, and Carlton Moss, and the pet of his life, "Speedy." Joe, you are now

with God and peace.

Bill Whitmore

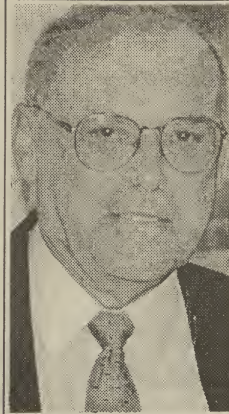
April 27, 1952 — March 29, 1999



William George "Bill" Whitmore lost a nine month battle with CMV, kidney failure and multiple AIDS complications on March 29. He and surviving partner David Zink-Brody would have been together six years on April 10. Bill was a high-school teacher in Special Education and History, most recently with the Jefferson Union High School District in Daly City. Bill and David shared a love of life and learning, art and nature, and travel. We loved discovering new places together and sharing our favorite special destinations.

Bill Whitmore is also survived by his sister Etta Jelinek; brother Victory Whitmore; nieces and nephew Michelle, Tom, and Misty; and grand-nephews and grandniece in Boise, Idaho. Family services will take place at a family gravesite in Overton, Nevada. Bill's ashes will be scattered alongside his mother, Elsie, who passed away just over one year ago. David will be taking a private memorial trip with friends and family to our favorite locations in the English countryside and Paris.

Bill and David loved living each day



In Loving Memory
Hector Caceres
1933 - 1999

for all we could share with our families and friends around us. For now, the crescent moons rise every month over gently shimmering Bay waters for Bill and for David.

A&PI and PI beget TECP

by Matthew Sharp

The first HIV treatment training program for non-medical providers in San Francisco AIDS service organizations (ASOs) has finished its first year. The program, called Treatment Education Certification Program (TECP), is a collaboration between Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center (A&PI) and Project Inform (PI), two respected San Francisco-based ASOs. The program is funded and mandated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health with Ryan White CARE Act dollars.

Talk about the need for this type of training program goes back into San Francisco HIV history. There has long been a desire to train service providers about the basics of HIV treatment. Other trainings are required and given to these providers, but none have addressed the basics of HIV treatment. So, in this ever-changing time of great confusion over delivery of services and the complicated information about HIV, the HIV Health Services Planning Council and the AIDS Office implemented a grant proposal in time to initiate this training program.

The providers enrolling in the program are case managers, treatment advocates, peer advocates, mental health and substance abuse counselors, and outreach workers working in ASOs and public health clinics. Each position has a crucial role in the life of a person with HIV receiving services, and without some sort of understanding of treatments used in HIV today, the positions would lack credible support for clients who are living longer and learning how to survive. Other educational programs similar to TECP exist, but none have been specifically designed for service providers, none have been managed and coordinated by other AIDS service agencies, and none are led by peers.

Also, the program is important because it was born and is operated out of the community and not a university of governmental agency. Developed by A&PI and PI in mid-1998, the program has had significant input from the providers and clients it aims to af-

fect. A&PI developed a manual for AIDS treatment case managers, a model born out of the agency several years ago. PI has always been the leader in bringing treatment information to the affected community. The collaboration among the organizations was meant to happen and is now bearing the fruit of its labor and commitment.

TECP has trained 152 participants to date, and will continue for another year (through February 2000). Forty-one agencies and clinics serving people with AIDS have been represented so far. Certification follows for participants who pass the initial three-day session with a score of 90 percent or above, standards set high by the AIDS Office in order to guarantee a level of knowledge and expertise not seen before in HIV service providers. Participants have three opportunities to re-take the test and pass.

Eighty percent of the participants in the first year passed the training and received certification. Demographics were half men and half women. Ethnicity demographics were 46 percent white; 20 percent African-American; 16 percent Latino/a; 10 percent A&PI, 3 percent Native American. In order to assess if people learned anything in the initial training, both pre- and post-course tests were given. The average pre-course test score was 50. Average post-course test scores were 89.6, with a difference of 39 points, showing a significant increased level of knowledge.

Topics covered in the training include a broad range of treatment subjects related to HIV disease and the healthcare of people infected with HIV. Understanding how HIV invades the body and cells, how the immune system functions, how the body is incapacitated by HIV, stages of HIV disease, antiretroviral therapy – including side effects, drug interactions and adherence, opportunistic infections, research and clinical trials, and health benefits – are all covered in the training.

Since HIV information can change dramatically, TECP allows for update meetings where new

HIV treatment information is presented. Since the start of TECP two new drugs have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Federal Guidelines for the Management of HIV have been updated, and new information about the immune system have developed. The people who have gone through the initial three-day course can now attend the update meetings as part of their continuing education and be kept abreast of cutting edge developments. Additionally, other monthly sessions – called "Provider Work Groups" – cover pressing issues such as nutrition and lipodystrophy, hepatitis C, and HIV treatment issues for transgender people.

Evaluations of TECP have been favorable. Maureen Fiorelli, a woman living with HIV and peer advocate at Lyon Martin Women's Clinic, stated in her evaluation, "As a person living with HIV, I'm proud that our local service providers have access to this detailed information – I feel like we are in 'good hands'!"

Other comments taken after the sessions included "I felt the training bridged a gap between my psycho-social approach and medical understanding"; "This training helps me feel empowered in my own care around living with this disease thereby making me a strong advocate for my clients"; and "I knew nothing coming in [to the training] and now I feel I can talk about the virus with a clear understanding of certain issues."

"The state of HIV information is always changing," stated Hank Wilson, treatment advocate at Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center and past participant in the training. "TECP provides a foundation to apply the treatment changes that are happening on a daily basis. Without that foundation providers can be lost, and not be aware of potential dangers. I've seen people with HIV still dying of PCP pneumonia that could have been prevented, had there been an intervention of prophylactic medication, initiated by a case manager or treatment advocate." ▼



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MVP

by Jim Provenzano

Jocks, they say, and former jocks, make good politicians, captains of industry and other guardians of the patriarchy. Without treading too deep into the esteemed Wayne Friday's columnar quarters, let's look at a few candidates and current politico-jocks.

In the gubernatorial arena, we've already hailed Jesse the Veto Ventura. You'll have to check my website (<http://members.tripod.com/~homeo/index-3.html>) for the full-color version of that.

In the 2000 Presidential Arena, there are actually two jockish candidates.

Bill Bradley, long shying away from his athletic past and corny sports analogies, has recently glommed onto this image, and its related jargon, even being videotaped at press stops shooting hoop with local yokels.

Yet he's a Rhodes scholar, a gentleman, and by some accounts, a bit snippy about having his life tabloidized. He should be. His take? "The public has a right to know if you're a crook, but they do not need to know if you're a sinner, since we all are."

Bradley, known to be high in integrity but low in electric charm under the camera, stands a chance as the runner-up. Perhaps he'll be swayed into VP status with Al Gore, who, although rumored to have quite a basket, does not shoot hoop. Gore's personality traits ring closer to the wooden bleacher. His reputation was once again soiled by the current scandal of Puerto Rico's AIDS money swindle.

Another presidential candidate you may not have heard about is Larry Hines, a legal secretary, accomplished actor and athlete.



Larry Hines

Mister Hines actually won a bronze medal in softball at Gay Games V with Team San Diego's Pirates.

Mister Hines is also an 11-year survivor of HIV, which makes him worthy of the position of secretary of health, as far as I'm concerned. Sorry, Donna, but the story of your life as portrayed by Linda Hunt is in development. Off to Hollywood with you.

And speaking of Hollywood, Mister Hines is from there. He also looks good in a uniform. As a former actual U.S. Marine, Mister Hines is also gay, a wonderful, if not often redundant combination.

He has not, however, appeared in any Dirk Yates videos, so the prospect of sex scandal is minimal. His experience in the realm of theatre, however, may make him a better performer, should this become a requirement for the office of president.

Hines is seeking a Libertarian Party nomination, and has already had many speaking engagements. His platform of social and foreign policy can be viewed on his website at www.gaywired.com/LarryHinesin2000. About Bill Clinton, he says "the gay community gets crumbs from the Democratic Party." He was especially let down by the gays in the military debacle, being a direct casualty of the

policy.

But is Hines "the" gay candidate (aside from perpetual presidential hopeful Joan Jett Blakk)? "I think people are worried that I'm going to claim to be a spokesman for the gay community," said Hines. "I'm just speaking for myself. But I'm definitely speaking as a gay man."

Wearing his uniform at the 1993 March on Washington, his activism has long been a part of who he is, and reflects his values. "People have to know who I am. Being HIV-positive doesn't mean I'm going to be running around talking about my medical condition, but I would rather all that information be out there."

Aside from his combat and athletic skills, which, as Governor Jesse can tell you, come in handy, Hines has included on his platform a reminder of an often forgotten passage in the United States Constitution. "No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

Of course, every Republican would fail that religious test, particularly the multiple choice question shown here:

- The Bible is:
- the law of God and our country
 - a good story with an ending that could use a re-write
 - my excuse to be a stinking pig bigot

Coach of the House

And speaking of stink, let's delve into the deep dark mysteries of the GOP and its athletic candidates.

"I am not willing to preside over a group of cannibals," then-

House Speaker Newt Gingrich said before being eaten alive. Replacing Newt is J. Dennis Hastert of the fine state of Illinois.

Mister Hastert has an outstanding history as a wrestling coach. Hastert's teams have won 14 conference championships, six regional and four sectional championships. Hastert also has a lot of other Coach of the Year-type awards that no doubt hang either

in his den or gather dust in a glass case in the high school where he until recently coached and taught history.

A fine gentleman, I'm sure. "I try to bring people together, that is my role," he said in an AP interview. It would seem a quieter gentler Speaker is on the order of the day, a sweet change of pace from the rabid pitbulls of yore.

USA *Wrestler* quotes mostly Republican politicians and coaches, who unsurprisingly hail Hastert as an all-around nice fellow and leader. As long as there is no discussion of the tens of thousands of gay and lesbian athletes and other students facing increasingly violent school homophobia, "Coach" Hastert won't be stirring up any dust, on or off the House mat, or floor.

Rah rah

But if Hastert eventually meets with the sea of venomous disapproval that Newt suffered, who might God's Outrage Puppets (the GOP) have in the wings?

One of the runner-ups for the post is Representative Steve Largent. Who is Steve Largent? A former professional football player and member of the NFL Hall of Fame. Other than sports and politics, the only thing Largent has in common with gay candidate Larry Hines is his birthplace: Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The *New York Times* called Largent "probably the most ideologically pure of the conservative Republicans elected to Congress in 1994."

Steve was a star quarterback in high school. Steve was class president. Steve married his high school sweetheart. Steve's wife was a cheerleader.

If you don't abhor him already, or if you didn't hear his barely veiled supremacist blatherings spewed across our nation's airwaves following Clinton's speechification, read what he says about us on his website (<http://www.house.gov/largent/>), where you can also buy lithographs of his greatest sports mo-



Steve Largent

ments:

"I believe these limits are healthy for our society because they maintain the value of heterosexual marriage and the prospect of raising a family."

On the non-discrimination act: "I do not believe that a person's lifestyle or behavior makes them eligible for behavior-specific protections. ENDA extends existing non-discrimination laws that apply to race, age, gender, or religious affiliation to individuals who behave like, or are perceived to be lesbian, homosexual, or bisexual. ... Any employer or property owner should be able to refuse to hire, rent, or enter into a contractual agreement with any person whose behavior is morally offensive to him."

"I do not believe, and it has not been demonstrated, that a person's sexual preference is biologically inherent. Evidence shows that 'sexual preference' is nothing more than a choice of will. Extending civil rights protection based on behavior is inappropriate."

And how is being a Bible-quoting evangelical Christian *not* learned behavior?

"I have stated that I would not fire someone based on his or her sexual orientation. However, I believe people should have that right."

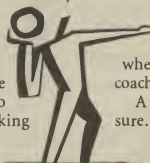
Steve says he prefers "life-style evangelism" to "handing out the four spiritual tracts to people I corner in the bathroom." His odd toilet behavior aside, he then calls homosexuality unhealthy.

"They would love to tag me as a wild-eyed, right wing, radical conservative fruitcake," he said in the *Times* piece. "But that's not me. I'm not weird. I'm normal, or I feel like I am. Maybe that's the first sign you aren't."

It is voices like these that are not going away, even in toilets, even in Steve's head, because a quarterback is not normal. Since there's only one on the team, he's the biggest freak of all.

And a relentless one. "You can't intimidate me," Largent has been quoted as saying. "I've had linebackers who wanted to kill me."

Just linebackers? ▼



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Sport briefs

by Jim Provenzano

Bay area jocks can offer input about the upcoming renovations of the Eureka Valley Rec Center, including accessibility issues, equipment repair and replacement, and general improvements, at a meeting this Thursday, April 29. It's at 6:30 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood at 18th. For information, call Tony at (415) 831-2769.

Product placement

Rock the Boat, Robert Houston and Robert Hudson's virgin documentary about a 1997 all-HIV-positive crew that competed in the barrowing Trans-Pacific Yacht Race from Los Angeles to Hawaii, begins its San Francisco run April 30 at the Lumiere Theatre.

You may be familiar with the crew as the subject of many ads from pharmaceutical company Roxane, where crew member Mike Schmidt says, "When things got rough Viramune® didn't get in my way." ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

AIDS Riders

◀ page 1

She kept yelling 'Keep going, keep going.' The pier ended. It was a short pier. 'Oh, sorry, wrong pier.'

Broken moral compass

This misguided herding tactic may be an apt analogy for the way riders, and AIDS charities, have been treated by Pallotta TeamWorks, Inc., aka Pallotta and Associates, Inc., the Los Angeles-based for-profit company that has been sued, fined, and maligned, yet defends its high fees and continues to secure contracts with charities around the country.

For Chris Cole to compare money-making to money-giving suggests that he and his company have their moral compass broken.

While criticism rises in newspaper articles, editorials, and among riders, the viewpoint of Chris Cole, national director at Pallotta TeamWorks, is strikingly different. Cole told the *Dallas Morning News* that 15 percent on \$3 million is a good investment. As he put it, "They couldn't have done anywhere near that by putting their money in the bank or the stock market."

That comment struck Boston's *Bay Windows* editor Jeff Epperly. In a March editorial, Epperly slammed what he called Cole's "hubris."

Epperly pointed out, "Giving money to a charitable event is nothing like investing money in stocks. One is about individual in-

vestors making a private profit and accepting the risks associated with capitalism; the other is about taking the hard-earned money of well-meaning people who expect that most of their money will go to help the charities involved. For Cole to compare money-making to money-giving suggests that he and his company have their moral compass broken."

Vermont's *Out in the Mountains* called it "the WalMart of AIDS benefits."

And like WalMart, Pallotta TeamWorks allegedly reaps bigger profits each year. The amount of that profit is debatable, since the company keeps those records private.

Rides, whether east or west

the *Dallas Morning News*. His group is one of 10 in Texas to permanently shun Pallotta TeamWorks, who, Trott said, aim "to make money for themselves and not to provide help for people with AIDS."

Florida, 1997: The Ride took in less than \$300,000, while costing \$1.2 million; the late Steve Michael of ACT UP/Washington was so disgusted he called Pallotta TeamWorks "the worst AIDS profiteer since Burroughs-Wellcome." (This year AIDS service agencies banded together to create their own ride, shunning Pallotta.)

Pennsylvania, 1997: Pallotta TeamWorks was taken to a Philadelphia court for misrepresentation in a 1996 Ride. They settled a civil action for \$110,000 after the state's attorney general found the firm guilty of misleading the public about net proceeds.

Pallotta spokespeople blame demographics and low turnout for the regional fiascos in cities that have fewer affluent people and smaller gay populations. Yet Pallotta and Associates take a hefty fee of around \$180,000 to \$280,000, no matter the success, failure, or location of the event.

Devotees and hardy cyclists participating in the rides defend it for what it means to them, particularly some San Franciscans, to whom the AIDS Ride has created a subculture and social network in a community nearly wiped out by AIDS.

This summer will see the sixth AIDS Ride in the Bay Area. Almost 2,500 people will trek by bike to Los Angeles, departing from Fort Mason just after dawn on June 6—ominously termed Day Zero.

As that date approaches, the *Bay Area Reporter* has been talking with several participants—past and present—on what the AIDS Rides mean to them. Also interviewed in future articles are community activists, sponsors, and former employees of Pallotta and Associates. ▼

Next week: part two.

coast, midwest or south, have one consistent pattern: controversy.

Wisconsin, 1998: Agencies netted a mere 6.5 percent, or \$52,000, from last July's 500-mile Twin Cities-Wisconsin-Chicago AIDS Ride. This April, editor-in-chief William Attewell's *In Step News*' scathing editorial said, "Pallotta has blamed the disturbingly low ratios of net proceeds vs. high production costs on everything from Mother Nature to low gay support to logistical problems."

Texas, 1998: The first Houston to Dallas AIDS Ride returned just 15 percent of its gross. "We trusted them, and we got screwed," Byron C. Trott, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center in San Antonio, told

NOW Lesbian Rights Summit in DC this weekend

by Liz Highleyman

A national strategy summit on lesbian rights, sponsored by the National Organization for Women (NOW) and a coalition of over 70 queer, feminist, and progressive groups, will be held in Washington, D.C., this weekend, April 23-25. The event is open to all lesbian women and their allies.

The summit will focus on current challenges and future strategies for the lesbian rights movement. According to organizers, the forum will be a venue for "creat[ing] a framework to ensure the values, vision, and inclusion of lesbians in the feminist movement, and feminists in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender movement." The last NOW lesbian rights conference was held in 1988.

Guest speakers at the event will include Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin); Elizabeth Birch of the Human Rights Campaign; ousted Lieutenant Colonel Grethe Cammermeyer; NOW President Patricia Ireland; Kerry Lobel of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF); Willa Taylor, executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum; and Urvasi Vaid, director of the NGLTF's Policy Institute. NOW's Women of Courage Award will be presented on Friday to longtime lesbian activists Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon of San Francisco.

In addition to speakers, the forum will also feature entertainers including Sonia of Disappear Fear. The summit will conclude

on Sunday with a march and rally.

Roundtable and panel discussions will be held on a wide range of issues, including campus organizing, lesbian health issues, youth and aging issues, parenting and custody, domestic partnerships, same-sex domestic violence, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military exclusion policy, hate crimes, running for office, and the creatively titled "Organizing for Change: From ABC to www."

Also to be discussed is an effort by the S/M Policy Reform Project, a group of NOW members seeking to amend the organization's policy on consensual sado-masochism—currently enshrined in NOW's Declaration of Lesbian Rights—which states that "sado-masochism is an issue of exploitation and violence, not affectional/sexual preference/orientation."

Transgendered people will also be represented at the summit, which will include a roundtable discussion on transgender issues on Friday.

According to Ireland, "We are facing serious right wing attacks on lesbian and gay civil rights—now is the time to close ranks and fight our enemies. The Lesbian Rights Summit will give us the opportunity to start the new century with unprecedented strength and a unified lesbian rights agenda." ▼

The Lesbian Rights Summit will take place at the Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C. For more info, see the website at www.now.org/lrsummit or call Cindy Jordan at (202) 331-0066 ext. 771.

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE Request For Proposal

San Francisco Community College District is accepting proposals for Food Service out of City College Press Box (approx. 180 square feet) located at 50 Phelan Ave., San Francisco. An open house to view the space will be held on Friday, May 7, 1999 at 3:30 p.m. and bids are due no later than Friday, May 14, 1999 at 12:00 noon.

To sign up for the open house and to receive a proposal packet, please contact Stephen J. Herman, Director of Administrative Services or Yolanda Panem at (415) 241-2327.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229216

The following person(s) are doing business as, Kennedy's Irish Pub Curry House, 1040 Columbus Avenue San Francisco, CA. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Brahma B. Swami. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/22/99.
APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230224

The following person(s) are doing business as, Arts 'N' Graphs, 401 Parker Avenue #3, San Francisco, CA. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lolis E. Gutierrez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/26/99.
APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230418

The following person(s) are doing business as, Tri Star Transport, 10 Carolina Street, San Francisco, CA. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Joseph L. Weatherman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/31/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/01/99.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229995

The following person(s) are doing business as, E-Central, 2358 Market Street San Francisco, CA. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed David M. Bach. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/19/99.
APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

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E15

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E16

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E16

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230346

The following person(s) are doing business as, San Francisco Bayside Travelodge, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an corporation, signed Norman F. Eichelmann. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/31/99. APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/10/95. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/17/99. APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230255

The following person(s) are doing business as, Costello's Tree Service, 450 Taraval St. Suite 292 San Francisco, Ca. 94116 This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sean McLaird. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/29/99. APR.15,22,29, MAY 6,1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230173

The following person(s) are doing business as, Cinia Salon, 23 Grant Avenue, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an husband and wife signed Jacinta Gibbons & Gerard Gibbons. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/24/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/25/99. APR,22,29, MAY 6,13 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229999

The following person(s) are doing business as, Integrated Healing Resources, 1380 South Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gregory Okulove. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/19/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/19/99. APR. 1,8,15,22 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229932

The following person(s) are doing business as, Ashbury Images, 1625 Bush Street Suite #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an corporation, signed Randy Newcomb. The registrant(s)

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SOMA: Seeking mature GLM from leather community to share 2BD Flt \$425 Eves 7-8 Only. 777-4254 E15

GM wanted to share 3brm flat w/2 other guys. 40th/Balboa, 31/38 bus lines, laundry, quiet area, easy parking, near restaurants & Safeway. \$575/mo+utils+\$550 dep. Avail now. Jeff 415-387-2197/Steve 831-7151 E16

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Brisbane Hills GLM seeking roommate to share larger 4BR modern view home 10 min to City and airport. Must be neat, clean & responsible. Non-smoker, no drugs. \$600 per mo. utils inc. No pets. 415-235-3098 E16

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SOMA: Seeking mature Gay Latino malt to share 2bdrm flat \$425. Call 7-8 evenings only 777-4254 E17

San Mateo roommate wanted to share 2bdrm 2 ba twnhse w/2GM+2 cats. \$550/mo+utils-frplc + prking-yard/balcony-avail 6/1. Rich 650 218 7230-Leave msg E15

POTRERO HILL \$600 2 bdr flat to share w/gay man. W/D No smok 552-1135 * Robert E17

S.J.S.U. 2BR 1 1/4 B Lg Vict apt, fireplace, park, quiet, secure 408-947-7877, \$500 incl utils E16

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE. CASE NO: 271861

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Florence P. Chavis aka Florence Phyllis Chavis. A petition for probate has been filed by Ahmad A. Rasheed, in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. The petition for probate requests that Ahmad A. Rasheed, be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Be-

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fore taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held on: April 28, 1999, Time: 9am Dept: #13, Room #204. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections of file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the person-

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al representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for petitioner J. W. Macneil, Esq. Law Office of Justin W. Macneil, P. O. Box 26024 San Francisco, Ca. 94126-6024 (415) 434-3490 APR. 8, 15, 22, 1999

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E17

LEGAL
NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230584

The following person(s) are doing business
as, Robb Group, 2986 Washington Street
San Francisco, CA, 94115. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Judith E.
Robb. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-
act business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 05/19/95. The
statement was filed with the County Clerk of
the City and County of San Francisco, CA on
04/07/99.
APR. 22, 29, MAY 6, 13 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230716

The following person(s) are doing business
as, Newspring California Company, 1730 A
3rd Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107. This
business is conducted by an individual,
signed Yai-Long Cheung. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on N/A. The statement was filed with
the County Clerk of the City and County of
San Francisco, CA on 04/13/99.
APR. 22, 29, MAY 6, 13 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230522

The following person(s) are doing business
as, eAnimal3.com, 3429 Sacramento Street,
San Francisco, CA, 94118. This business is
conducted by a general partnership, signed
Theresa Dollard & Laurie Martin. The regis-
trant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on N/A. The statement was
filed with the County Clerk of the City and
County of San Francisco, CA on 04/06/99.
APR. 22, 29, MAY 6, 13 1999.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO: FILE NO: 302826

In the Matter of the Application of Jennifer
Rebecca Evelyn Morin. For Change of
Name. The application of Jennifer Rebecca
Evelyn Morin, for change of name, having
been filed in court, and it appearing from
said application that Jennifer Rebecca Evely-
n Morin has filed an application proposing
that her name be changed to Percy Wise.
Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and di-
rected, that all persons interested in said
matter do appear before this Court in de-
partment X-4/206 on the 25th day of
May, 1999, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., of said day to
show cause why the application for change of name
should not be granted.
APR. 22, 29, MAY 6, 13 1999

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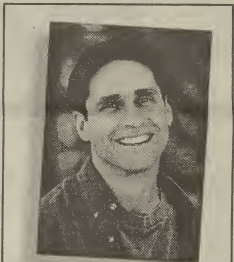
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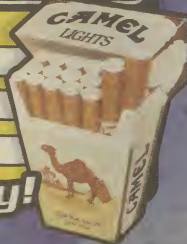
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Author Allan Gurganus
on surviving the plague.

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Dead again
In search of queer Dead-
heads at Phil Lesh concert.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 16 • 22 April 1999

Ben Silverstone and Brad Gorton in *Get Real*



Low on the homometer

1999 SF International Film Festival

by Gary Morris

Queerspotting in this year's SFIFF (the 42nd, if you can believe it) offered mostly minor rewards. Only one feature qualifies as unabashedly homo, along with a documentary, an experimental film, and a few shorts. Of course, as progressive queers, we shouldn't be too upset at being under-represented in a festival that's showing fabulous recent work by world-class auteurs like Mohsen Makhmalbaf (*The Silence*), Theo Angelopoulos (*Eternity and a Day*), and Emir Kusturica (*Black Cat, White Cat*). That said, let's take a look at this year's gay and lesbian (not!) component.

Of the eight "official" Queer Interest films as listed in the press materials, three are shorts, and a fourth, Arturo Ripstein's *Divine*, was unavailable for previewing. That leaves Simon Shore's British coming-out drama, *Get Real*; Chuck Smith and Ari Marcopoulos's documentary about an androgyny-obsessed artist, *Forrest Bess: Key to the Riddle*; Mike Hoolboom's fine experimental film *Panic Bodies*; and a forgettable featurette from France, Sébastien Lifshitz's *Open Bodies*. (There's also a minute or two of implied lesbianism in the inventive *Le Poulpe* and an evil queen scene in the Senegalese classic *Touki-Nouki* — both worthy films but not high on the homometer.)

Get Real, which opens theatrically in a couple of weeks, has an immediate subver-

sive edge simply by being about the tortured coming-out process of a 16-year-old British schoolboy. (Repeat that line, substituting the word "American" for "British" to understand just how subversive this is.) Based on a play by Patrick Wilde, the film stars Ben Silverstone as Steven Carter, a pale, genial upper-middle-class student bullied at school, subtly tyrannized by his father, and driven to dawdle near a public restroom in the local cruising park. Steven's obsession with jock-dreamboat John Dixon (Brad Gorton) complicates things, more so when the supposedly straight hunk actually responds to Steven's advances. There's also the obligatory overweight fag hag (played with gusto by Charlotte Brittain), a gal pal who stoically goes from potential girlfriend to "sister," a sympathetic teacher, and uncomprehending parents. Steven's dilemma is how to reconcile his own desire to admit who he is with John's desperation to stay in the closet.

Simon Shore's direction is polished, and Silverstone is effective as the troubled boy moving inexorably toward coming out. There are also bits of welcome if disposable humor, as when Steven attempts to write his phone number on a piece of toilet paper for a trick is thwarted when his pen runs out of ink. Less interesting is the predictable plot, the deadly air of a kind of homosexual "After School Special," which shines

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The Carter Administration

Nell Carter to perform with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

by Richard Dodds

Nell Carter may or may not have performed in San Francisco after her first visit here in *Ain't Misbehavin'*. "Oh, God, I've done too many drugs to remember," said the entertainer, who has been clean and sober for 13 years after cocaine nearly destroyed her career. But there's every reason to believe that Carter will remember her next performance here.

"I begged for the chance to sing with them," Carter said from Beverly Hills about her upcoming performance with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. "This is really important to me."

Carter and chorus will perform together April 24 and 25 at the Masonic Auditorium in a jazz- and blues-themed program highlighted by tributes to Duke Ellington and Fats Waller. "I'll be doing songs from *Ain't Misbehavin'* for those who know me only from that, and for those who know me in real life, I'll be doing *If I Can't Sell It, I'll Sit on It*," said Carter, who described herself as "perky with an attitude."

The seeds for this concert were planted when several chorus members took a cruise on which Carter was a featured entertainer. "She does a show every night," said Stan Hill, the chorus' artistic director, "but during the day she wanders around getting to know people. Our

guys talked to her about the chorus, and how great it would be to do a show with her."

With the ball rolling, Carter was invited to the chorus' fundraising banquet last fall, and the relationship was sealed. "It was like discovering a long-lost sister," Hill said. "There was a bonding that doesn't happen very often when you're dealing with celebrities. There was a real simpatico going on."

Carter had actually first heard the chorus perform years ago, but she was not in a place where she wanted to deal with people who might be struggling with AIDS. "When my brother passed away about 10 years ago, I was a very angry person," Carter said. "I watched all my friends die, and then my brother flew in from Chicago to see me. He was helping me make the bed, and he said, 'Nell, I have cancer,' and he just looked at me. We never said anything, but my heart died."

She still regrets that they did not confront the reality of his illness and come to terms with it. "We talked forever on the phone, but we just did not acknowledge it," she said. But on her own she was frantically researching the latest treatments for AIDS, and was frustrated in the process. "I couldn't find anyone who knew anything, so

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Connie Copyhole

What is lovelier than a day in May? How about film star **Jude Law** bound and gagged, a fifth of Bombay Sapphire, some meat tenderizer and a selection of hygienically-sealed rubber goods? The tropical heat wave has all of our worst instincts on overdrive this week, so forgive us if we're prone to ramble.

Ask and you shall receive dept.: Just the other week we were wondering when **Lypsinka** parodist **Lypstinka** would be touting her own website. Lo and behold, word arrives that she is currently working on her site, "StinkaWeb." We're assured by our cybermole that the site will be up and running presently; more will be revealed.

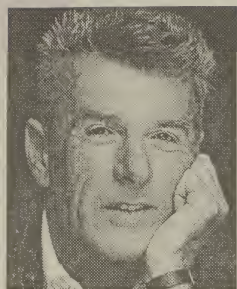
Another phenom personality, star of stage and gallery **Rodney O'Neal Austin**, sent along a copy of a Minnie Pearl Necklace CD which features his indelicate vocals. It's a musical question as well as an open challenge to imperious SF mayor **Willie Brown** called, "Would You Fix MUNI?" Out There readers will have to call into a local radio station to request airplay, since Miss Rodney only made enough recordings to send to press and radio, but we've heard it, and it rocks. Now that he's thrown down the gauntlet, is the next step for Rodney throwing his hat into the ring? A mayoral run has apparently not been ruled out.

Speaking of the hugely powerful, we see that Da Mayor's Office



Rodney O'Neal Austin

has put out the call for da new city poet laureate to replace da erstwhile versifier/current alley name **Lawrence Ferlinghetti**, who steps down from the honorary post at the end of the year. The SF Poet Laureate Committee is accepting nominations through June 15, and forms are available at the Public Library or by calling 557-4236. Hey, what's more appropriate for this toddlin' town than a gay SF poet laureate? We'll second any nomination of sexy leather daddy poet **Thom Gunn**.



Leather daddy poet Thom Gunn

Speaking of poetics, our idea for a gay porno knock-off flick based on the Bard of Avon's love sonnets to a pulchritudinous young man has the working title **Shakespeare In Lust**. Casting would be quite easy. Playing the part of Willie the Shakes: **Keanu Reeves**, in another incredible stretch of artistic range. Playing the sonnets' dedicatee, boytoy W.H.: sex-on-a-quill **Ryan Phillippe**.

But who needs soft-core porn set around literary figures when we have the SF Ballet to fill us with

visual delight? We finally caught the triumphal SF Ballet production of *Giselle*, and here's what you really want to know. The humpy if spurned gameskeeper Hilarion, danced by the delectable Dane **Peter Brandenhoff**, wore a fetching leather get-up accessorized with some sort of darey black jockstrap; in fact, the entire male corps sported prominent codpieces; Albrecht portrayer **Roman Rykine** himself got to prance around in a pair of too-too calf-high suede boots; and the lake with its lonely grave seemed to be perpetually swamped by tulle fog. From all these indications, the great romantic warhorse was apparently set not in the rural

Rhineland, but back home in old San Francisco. Our cups runneth over, and we mean of the dance variety.

Eye on the Prizes

Forgive us for unseemly self-confidence, but it seems to be going around. Playwright, novel-

tivist **Larry Kramer** called in to gloat with us about that list of lucky, plucky Pulitzer Prize winners in the arts announced last week, which included no less than three (count 'em, 3) gay members of the tribe! They are: playwright **Margaret Edson**, for her hot, hot play *Wit*; biographer **A. Scott Berg**, for his bio of aviator hero **Charles Lindbergh**; and in the fiction category, novelist **Michael Cunningham**, for his lush homage to *Virginia Woolf*, *The Hours*. We were ahead of the

curve again on this one — you may remember BAR contributor **David Lamble**'s interview with Cunningham in these pages last fall. We knew then the author was destined to top even the gathering of a "Lammy!"

Berg threw us a curve ball there (or a straight one) for penning the tome about decidedly non-gay **Lindbergh**; but he previously won the National Book Award for **Maxwell Perkins: Editor of Genius** and a Guggenheim for [Samuel] **Goldwyn: A Bio**, so he's got at least a strain of show queen in him; and he's a graduate of Princeton, where we just bet he was a member of the fencing team.

The sixth degree of separation in this glamorous awards-laden tesseract is actress **Kathleen Chalfant**, currently sending New York audiences into paroxysms of grief and joy in Edson's *Wit* (we already know who deserves next year's theatre awards). Chalfant's talent was spotted ages ago when she was given the juicy part of life-like former First Lady **Nancy Reagan** in a political farce about Reagan Administration scandals penned by none other than... **Larry Kramer**. This is where we came in.



Robert Downey, Jr.

Going Downey?

From the *Adelaide* [Australia] GT: "US actor **Robert Downey Jr.** has been busy revealing several past homosexual encounters in an already adventure-filled life. 'When no girls were around, my best friend in high school and I would make out with each other as a last resort,' says Downey, who plays a gay character married to **Brooke Shields** in the upcoming movie *Black & White*. The actor also remembers waking up one morning at the home of a friend he had met in theatre camp to find the man performing oral sex on him.

"My last foray was when one of my best friends came to Italy," says Downey, who stars with **Annette Bening** in the upcoming psychological thriller *In Dreams*. 'I wanted to get [cocaine], and so we were heading to a gay bar to look for some, and I kissed him out on the street. I was drunk, and it just felt right.' Darn right."

If it just feels right to masturbate, by all means do it! Those sex-you-up folks at Good Vibrations want you to know that May is National Masturbation Month, and announce the National Masturbate-A-Thon on May 7. Get your friends to sponsor you for every minute you masturbate on that day; all proceeds go to regional HIV and AIDS organizations. Pick up your form at GV, or call 1-800-289-8423 x172. The sexual pleasure emporium has mounted a Masturbation Hall of Fame with photos of "luminaries of self-gratification" **Roseanne**, **Prince**, and **Cybil Shepard**, among others. We wonder how much lube those luminaries use. ▼

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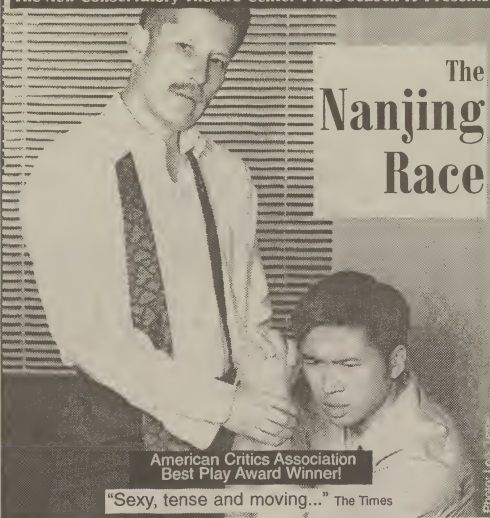


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THEATRE

Beyond the flesh parade

NCTC's 1999-2000 season

by Richard Dodds

The New Conservatory Theatre Center is billing its upcoming season of gay theater as "Sex, Guts, Glory — The Millennium Pride Season." The 1999-2000 season will also mark the fifth anniversary for the Pride program, which will be expanding in several new directions over the course of its six-play series.

"Our audience has been very supportive as we have been very slowly moving toward not-just-flesh on stage," said Ed Decker, the artistic and executive director of NCTC. "With this season, we're trying to tie together the fabric of the land in addition to being artistic and having fun."

Here are the key elements providing the aforementioned sex, guts, and glory:

Steel Kiss (Sept. 8-Oct. 30) — Canadian playwright Robin Fulford's two-part drama makes its US debut. The first act tells the true story of the 1985 murder of a gay teacher in a Toronto park by four local teenagers. The second act takes place four years after the murder as the perpetrators are preparing for their release. Originally presented as two separate plays, Fulford has adapted his works into a single evening for the NCTC run. "It's a very powerful play," Decker said. "That's why we're opening with it."

Dream Boy (Nov. 10-Jan. 1) — Eric Rosen's adaptation of Jim Grimsley's novel offers a bitter-sweet look at the first love between two adolescent boys in the Bible Belt. "It's darker than *Beautiful Thing*," said Decker. NCTC's production follows engagements in Chicago and Atlanta.

Who's Afraid of Edward Albee? (Dec. 1-Jan. 22) — Los Angeles playwright Michael Kearns offers a backstage look at an acting troupe rehearsing an all-male production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, a concept that Albee has adamantly refused to authorize. "It's a very funny romp," Decker said, "as the actors become like the characters they're playing." The play will have its premiere in Los Angeles in June, before being reworked for the San Francisco run. "The second act still needs a little tweaking," Decker said.

Love! Valour! Compassion! (Jan. 12-March 4) — Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning drama makes its San Francisco debut. (Berkeley Rep staged the Bay Area premiere in 1996.) The play follows eight friends during their weekend escapes to the country, where friendships are tested and reaffirmed. "We had tried to get McNally's *Corpus Christi*, but it wasn't available yet," Decker said. "But we had been talking for some time that *Love! Valour! Compassion!* should be done here. Our audience is different than Berkeley Rep's."

Message to Michael (March 15-May 6) — Tom Pinckney's comedy, an off-off-Broadway success of the past season, looks at two bar-hopping gay friends who find their relationship strained when one lands a boyfriend. "It's kind of a normal story," Decker said. "It's just about being funny."

Torch Song Trilogy (May 24-July 15) — Harvey Fierstein's Tony-Award winning comedy makes a return to San Francisco

after 15 years. The tale of a professional female impersonator and his relationship with his lover, his mother, and an adopted son went out of vogue at the height of the AIDS epidemic. "But so much of it is still relevant and current," Decker said. "A lot of issues were left in waiting while we had to save our lives."

Torch Song Trilogy and **Love! Valour! Compassion!** will be presented in the Decker Theatre, the largest of the center's three theaters, marking the first time a Pride Season production has been staged there. "Our plan was in the first years to do the Pride productions in the smaller spaces," Decker said. "By consistently filling up the smaller theaters you create a buzz. We're running at about 76 percent capacity this year, up from 60 percent last year, and we figure we're ready to make the move."

The 140-seat Decker Theatre will also be home to New Conservatory Theatre Center in Concert, a new program of musicals presented as staged concerts. The first season will include a return of *The Harvey Milk Show*, the classic Stephen Sondheim revue *Side by Side by Sondheim*, and the spoof *Boy Meets Boy*. The theater is also in negotiation for William Finn's



NCTC's Ed Decker

A New Brain, the newest work by the author of *Falsettos*.

NCTC is getting a big boost in the budget department thanks to a two-year \$75,000 grant from the James Irvine Foundation targeted for the Pride productions and the Celebrating Women Festival that opens in May, and which includes premieres of new works by Karen Finley and Holly Hughes. ▼

Subscriptions (from \$75 to \$200) to the six-play series will go on sale June 1. For more information call 861-8972.

Bone crazy

'A Thin Place in the Universe'

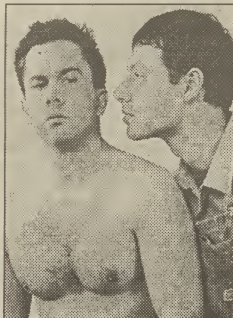
by Richard Dodds

Some plays are said to be thought-provoking. *A Thin Place in the Universe* is such a play, though the thoughts provoked are often along the lines of "What the heck is happening now?" But it's not accidental obfuscation. At one point the central character turns to the audience and says, "If you're so smart, you figure it out."

Being presented by the First Seen company in the Studio at Theatre Rhino, Jeff Schwamberger's new play is nothing if not ambitious. Archeology, the Greek legend of Oedipus, the Vietnam War, and Judaism, not to mention a dead man kvetching, are among the ingredients in this exploration of ... well, I'm not sure of what. The perils in digging up old bones (the play is set at an archeological dig) is an obvious metaphor, as should likely be the Oedipal Complex (Oedipus' burial site is the archeologists' quest), but that's not where the playwright seems to be going.

Nor does the fact that the young firebrand archeologist at the center of the story is gay turn out to be particularly significant, even though he announces "I'm queer" to anyone within earshot. Christopher does submit to a single kiss near the end of the play, but it's not this romantic bottleneck that is driving the frequently hallucinogenic action.

Characters are constantly morphing, as well as time-traveling, and in a matter of moments one actor may be portraying a bumbling rich kid, a drug-addled soldier in Vietnam, and a Greek sentry of indeterminate vintage. The latter character seems at



Mark VanDerBeets and Jason Arquin in Jeff Schwamberger's *A Thin Place in the Universe*

times to emerge from antiquity, but he also shoots a contemporary archeologist who says things like, "You want I should bleed to death, boychik?" Death doesn't shut him up, as he continually haunts Christopher's dreams and sometimes his phone calls.

A jangling telephone is a recurring motif, as is Chris' constant stripping to his shorts and quick repantings. That actor Mark VanDerBeets cuts an appealing figure in his Joe Boxers makes these moments visually pleasing, at least the first dozen times. Okay, okay, I'm vamping here, as the play defeats easy attempts at analysis — or even synopsis. The one thing that is clear is that Chris' obsession with his father, killed years before in Vietnam, can finally be released thanks to some old bones (but not Oedipus) that he has dug up.

This maze of a play is intriguing more than it is annoying, though its biggest crime is the te-

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Kate does Marrakech

'Hideous Kinky' is a mess

by Matthew Kennedy

Poor Kate Winslet. She recently faced a most difficult professional dilemma: what to do after *Titanic*? You can almost hear her handlers giving sage advice: "Go contemporary, go indie, get out of those corsets. Maybe later do an action flick with Nicolas Cage, but for now... there's *Hideous Kinky*. It's so different." Yes, it is that, especially in commercial potential. Make no mistake: *this* is the boat that sinks.

It's 1972. Winslet plays Julia, a 25-year-old mother who splits from her longtime lover, an eminent London poet. She's discontent, you see, and believes there is a better life through spirituality and renouncement of material luxuries. So she and her two daughters, ages eight and six, traipse off to Marrakech. Winslet keeps her tiny brood together by translating English, selling trinkets in the street, and getting irregular support checks from the lover-dad-poet-prig back home. We never see him, we only get the impression that he's delinquent in the care of his daughters. And

Julia, alas for her, still loves him.

Hideous Kinky could be the victim of brutal editing. It's certainly inept filmmaking all the way. There are abrupt, inexplicable dead-ends of storyline and scenes. There is also the shell of a decent movie here, if we knew why Julia went to such extremes. How was it she had a daughter when she was 17? Does the cold grind of English working life fully explain how she could endanger her daughters' welfare by plunking them down in an exotic, teeming city she doesn't understand? Is the search for some vaguely worded mysticism enough? On top of that, she shows all the good mothering skills of Faye Dunaway.

Poor Kate Winslet. She can be so fine — witness *Heavenly Creatures*, *Hamlet* and *Sense and Sensibility*. But not even her newly minted sun-ripened stringy-haired radiance can save a movie lacking fully drawn characters. Given her past attachment to highly literate projects, *Hideous Kinky* looks all the more bankrupt.

Freudian slip

The movie is derived from a novel by Esther Freud based on her childhood experiences. But novice director Gillies MacKinnon (*Regeneration*) hired his brother Billy to pen the screenplay. Instead of a coherent story, we're treated to a double set of clichés from hippie movies and



Kate Winslet as Julia in a scene from *Hideous Kinky*

road movies. Miles of footage are wasted on picturesque tracking shots of Moroccan countryside. Even more film is unspooled on Moroccan music and dance to pound home the fact, one supposes, that we are outsiders looking in. Along the way there is the requisite romance (with French-Moroccan actor Said Taghmaoui), there is a health crisis, and there is the incoherent babble of the pharmacologically-inclined dropouts of the Western World. Then there's the soundtrack, dominated by overly familiar standards of the era. Memo to MacKinnon: Just say no to *Go Ask Alice*.

Poor Kate Winslet. Her Julia comes off as the confused child of

a disintegrating empire playing a particularly selfish game of neo-colonial soul-searching. To the movie's minor credit, the harsh reality of residual European patronage is neither ignored nor glamorized. But like everything else, it's all gloss and dross. I kept hoping for some relief to the movie's earnest if amateur seriousness. I kept hoping for Patsy and Edina to come rolling over the horizon on a mule; smoking fags and tossing off bitter *bon mots*. If you're going to be a cultural dilettante, at least be amusing about it. ▼

Hideous Kinky opens Friday, April 23 in San Francisco.

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SF Film Festival

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through in spite of the potentially controversial edge. The film understandably avoids extended love scenes, but it also stints on the drama. Scenes that might and perhaps should be harrowing — Steven being caught in public by the cops, his clashes with his father — have no sting, making this ultimately one of the easier coming-out stories in recent memory.

Mike Hoolboom's *Panic Bodies* was reviewed at length in these pages when it played a few weeks ago at the San Francisco Cinematheque. Suffice it to say that this is one of the more daring and exciting experimental works to come along, and a refreshing counterpoint to the mindlessness of much of recent gay cinema.

Outsider visions

A highlight of the festival is *Forrest Bess: Key to the Riddle*. This fascinating documentary looks at the life and work of a little-known outsider artist (1911-1977) whose struggles with his homosexuality led to visions, a vastly detailed inner world, a brilliant painting career, and self-mutilation. His paintings — small, powerfully disturbing works that draw on a kind of ancient pictographic symbology — brought comparisons to Jackson Pollack and Franz Kline, but Bess was unique in several ways. A fishing bait salesman by day, he hung out with Texas good old boys while having shows in tony New York galleries and privately obsessing over transforming himself into what he called a "pseudo-hermaphrodite." A student of Jung and anthropology, he eventually copied certain Australian tribesmen in cutting a hole in the base of his penis, which nearly cost him his life. He



Anne Carlisle as Jimmy in a scene from *Liquid Sky*

and some of those who knew him call this a brave, progressive act, an attempt by a reincarnated yogi to "reconcile his male and female parts," but some viewers (and a lone doctor in the film) will interpret it as an elaborate, ritualized form of homosexual self-hatred.

A less unsettling attempt at genderfuck occurs in another film of interest to with-it queer audiences, Slava Tsukerman's *Liquid Sky* (1982). Here the glorious Anne Carlisle, one of the great androgynes of the '80s, appears as both the dissolute, drug-addled model Margaret and her tormentor, a hipster named Jimmy. Tsukerman reinvents Weimar Germany as postmodern New York, with gyrating scenesters swilling drugs, dancing mindlessly into the night, and being zapped at the moment of orgasm by aliens who feed off the chemicals released. Music buffs will treasure the haunting score, performed mostly on a Fairlight synthesizer.

Even more fun is a long-overdue documentary on the famed "fartiste" Joseph Pujol. Igor Vamos' *Le Petomane* is a wildly entertaining biography of the *fin-de-siècle* fave who entertained audiences haute and low by "singing," smoking, extinguishing candles, and playing the flute with his exceptionally versatile rectal muscles. Director Vamos's droll picture of the "anal anarchist" yields unsuspected insights: who knew that the Petomane, who performed in public fully clothed for mixed audiences, also had private sessions in which he "bared his backside" and practiced his art for a select group of attentive, adoring men? ▼

The 42nd SIFF runs April 22 through May 6 at the AMC Kabuki 8 and Castro Theatres, Pacific Film Archives, and Rafael Film Center. Call 931-FILM.

INTERVIEW

Barrymore legend lives

Drew Barrymore on 'Never Been Kissed'

by Tim Nason

Drew Barrymore has a couple things to get off her chest — a chest she has given up baring on national television — before we begin talking about her most recent comedy, *Never Been Kissed*.

"Yes, I am going to be starring in a big-screen version of *Charlie's Angels* [opposite Cameron Diaz and probably Angelina Jolie]," she says first, when asked. "And no, I won't be going forward with a feature film about Brandon Teena," she adds.

More about Brandon Teena later. First, I needed to ask Drew about the kiss she shared with her *Never Been Kissed* co-star Molly Shannon on Shannon's television show *Saturday Night Live* recently.

"That was the best thing," she says, about hosting the popular comedy show, on March 14. "But kissing Molly Shannon was even better."

This was not the first time that the adorable Drew acted as hostess of the hit late-night show. Seventeen years before, at the age of seven, Barrymore became the youngest host of *SNL* — she retains that title — when she was there to promote her second film — what was it called? Oh, that's right, *E.T.*

Dressed in a blue cardigan sweater, Drew enters the suite at the Four Seasons in Beverly Hills followed by her beautiful Labrador, Flossy.

"I try to take him with me everywhere," she says of her four-pawed friend.

The last time I spoke with Drew, last November, she had recently completed filming *Never Been Kissed*, and had just returned from having seen it for the first time. She was very excited and proud of her effort, and rightfully so. *Never Been Kissed* is the first film that Barrymore produced under her production company, Flower Films.

The film happens to have been a great vehicle for Barrymore to debut her talent at producing. Following her two smashes from last year, *The Wedding Singer* and *Ever After*, Barrymore scores big as Josie Geller, a struggling copy editor at the Chicago *Sun-Times* who wins an opportunity to prove herself as an undercover reporter, back at the high school she went to eight years earlier. The problem? A huge one. Actually a nightmare. You see, when Josie was a student at the high school, she was called "Grossie" Josie because of her geekiness. She was a klutzy, nerdy, "never-been-kissed" laughingstock. Can Josie overcome the horrid memories and go back to school as a "new" girl and fit in with today's even more incredulous teens?

Horror school

Barrymore recalls that *Never Been Kissed* was a labor of love. "I wanted to make this movie because it taps into an emotion that everyone can identify with — the awkward moments of our high school years. For Josie, high school was a horrible, humiliating experience. She completely lacks in social skills, and now, when she has to relive those years by going back, she again misses the mark by the mile."

The always "hyper" (even in

Drew Barrymore as Josie in *Never Been Kissed*

person) Molly Shannon joins us later in the morning, and says she enjoyed playing Barrymore's colleague in the film and also kissing her on *Saturday Night Live*.

"She is such a good kisser, too," Shannon beams, when told that Barrymore paid her lips a compliment.

"We even did some kissing during our dress rehearsal," she says, laughing.

Shannon, an Ohio native and regular on *SNL*, well-known for characters such as Mary Katherine Gallagher and Helen, the Licensed Joyologist — based on a drunk neighbor of hers when she was growing up — recalls that her high school counselors never gave her much encouragement because of her lack of attention in school.

"They were nice enough to tell me that I would do well at Ohio State. I was like, 'Fuck you. I'll go wherever I want to. I'll show you,'" she says, laughing.

Show them she did. Shannon moved to NYC and went to NYU, where she met some aspiring comedians and actors who introduced her to cast members of *SNL*.

"I'm lucky. Yes, but because I am doing something I love, making people laugh and feel good," says Shannon, running her fingers through her hair ("I quit smoking and need to keep my fingers busy").

Shannon, who steals *Never Been Kissed*, as she did a scene in *Analyze This*, debuted less than six months ago on the big screen in *A Night at the Roxbury*. Since then, she has completed filming *Superstar*, which will be released in September and is a film revolving around her *SNL* character Mary Katherine Gallagher.

Shannon and Barrymore are now both single, Barrymore very recently single.

"No, I am not seeing Edward Norton. We are just friends," Drew says, when asked. "We were at the Academy Awards together as friends. I am enjoying my single-ness."

You'll remember that her *Home Fries* co-star Luke Wilson was also her real-life boyfriend at the time of filming and until a couple of months ago.

Things change, though, and it seems that things have changed in the right direction for Barrymore

over the years. She has recovered from her pre-teen and teenage drug and alcohol abuse, which necessitated an almost decade-long film hiatus, and has chosen some pretty good roles — in *Boys on the Side*, *Scream*, and *Batman Forever* — since her return to film, roles which have kept her one of America's favorite faces.

"I really wanted to do the *Brandon Teena* movie. I wanted to produce and star in it," says Barrymore, recalling the true story about the girl who lived as a boy and was murdered when her secret was discovered. "But I lost it. I had such a great interest in the film," she adds, "and told everyone about it long before I should have. I have learned to keep my mouth shut."

While Barrymore is not too happy that she will not be working on *Brandon Teena*, she is glad that the film is getting made. "They," she says, referring to the other producers, "like us, appreciated the story and realized it needed to be told on screen. More power to them for beating me to it." ▼

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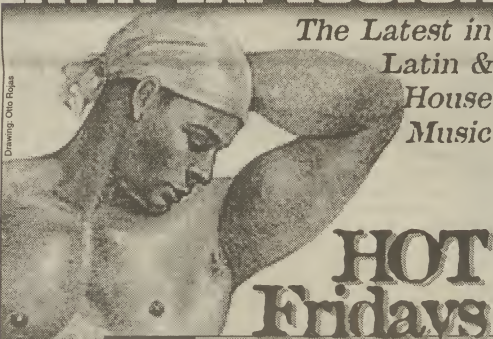
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Lesh is more

After the Dead, Phil Lesh still draws queers

by Mark Mardon

It's early Thursday evening on Market Street in front of the Warfield Theater, and I've joined the crush of people waiting to get in to see Phil Lesh and Friends. With me in the ticket-holders line is Joshua Smith, someone I've known for just over a year, who on his 26th birthday happened to mention how much he wanted to see this show. By chance I had access to a pair of tickets, so I gladly invited him to go with me, though in fact I'd never heard of Phil Lesh before, and had no idea who his friends were.

I soon realize that Joshua and I, along with some of Joshua's ticket-holding friends and about 2,000 select others, are exceptionally lucky to be getting in. A barricade separates us from a mob of people who swarm about the sidewalk, most everyone holding up fingers in desperate hopes of buying precious tickets — from scalpers or would-be friends — for a show long ago sold out.

One of those on the other side of the barricade, holding up his finger to no avail, is Garrin Benfield, Joshua's husband of seven years and an avid fan of the Grateful Dead for about 14 years, since he was 12. As an accomplished singer/songwriter with a growing following in the local music scene, Garrin was strongly influenced by the Dead in his formative years, before he went on to develop his own singular rock/funk/blues/bluegrass style. He still appreciates his roots, and we had hoped to scrape up another ticket for him so we could all attend together, but the odds were against us. Lesh fans have arrived from all over the country to attend what they see as an historic musical event: the first-ever concert combining members of the Grateful Dead (bassist Phil Lesh), Phish (guitarist Trey Anastasio and keyboardist Page McConnell), and the Other Ones (guitarist Steve Kimock and drummer John

Molo), the band that formed to carry on the Grateful Dead legacy following the death of Jerry Garcia, who had been the Dead's guiding force.

As perhaps the only non-Dead fan in line, I feel some anxiety about leaving Garrin out in the cold, knowing he'd give his left nut to get inside. He's been to some 35 Dead concerts in his time, and an equal number of Phish concerts, but never, of course, to a concert combining the two. Yet I am on a mission: to begin to understand the Dead/Phish phenomenon, and particularly to investigate why the bands attract such a fiercely devoted legion of followers, including, I'm told, a substantial number of queers. Joshua, as a certified queer Deadhead and an artist with a passion for psychedelic sounds and imagery, will be my companion for the show, but even he acquired his passion from Garrin — the same sort of passion that in the last year has slowly crept into my psyche, bending my mind in a direction away from my most recent obsession, electronic music. I want to appreciate whatever it is about the Dead/Phish music scene that so excites and cultivates queer hippies.

Nirvana-bound

Inside the Warfield, Joshua and I are packed like sardines in the crowd up close to the stage, grooving along with some of the tightest guitar playing and jamming I've ever heard or witnessed. Lesh looks his 59 years, but now successfully recovered after a liver transplant, he's in fine form, carrying on a lively musical conversation with his colleagues. The group opens with a sensational version of "Viola Lee Blues," which builds to a lush guitar-driven peak, simmers down into an ambient/electronic interlude, then reclaims its height, carrying the crowd to Nirvana. It's the beginning of a phenomenal four hours of playing, the energy of which never sags, the brilliance of

which ignites the crowd and has Joshua and me standing and swaying to the rhythm until our feet and legs are sore.

What I do notice, though it makes no difference in my appreciation for the music, is that Joshua and I seem to be among the very few obvious queers in the audience. Certainly there are others, but nowhere near what I'd anticipated. For years I'd heard that queer Deadheads were legion — a thriving sub-subculture — but apparently I'd been somewhat misled.

"A queer following exists," Garrin assures me a couple of days after the concert (graciously hiding his disappointment at not getting in), "but by no means is it the majority; you get little flashes of it. It's like everything cool; it's not the dominant thing. It's just what you see in passing. I know a lot of queer Deadheads as individuals, but you never really feel their presence so much at shows."

"The Dead scene is really just a microcosm of big society," Garrin explains. "It's got all the same prejudices. I've had a couple of rude awakenings. In '94 I was petitioning for the legalization of gay marriage for the Human Rights Campaign. I went to this Dead show in Eugene, Oregon, and thought I could get all these



Joshua Smith consoles his husband Garrin Benfield, who couldn't get in.

freaks to sign up. I was so shocked! I tried like 10 or 15 people, and was so scared off by their reaction. They were like [he feigns a backwoods country-hick accent]: 'A bunch of queers gonna

get married? I don't think I want to sign that! Do you?' Maybe I just happened to hit on all the wrong people, but that was one of the major clashes of my queer identity in the Dead scene." ▼

Flying creatures

by Gregg Shapiro

If you are wondering exactly where in the world guitar-driven rock and roll is in 1999, the albums *By Your Side* (Columbia/American) by The Black Crowes, *Holiday Man* (Trauma/Delicious Vinyl) by The Flys, and *Phantom Power* (Sire) by The Tragically Hip might help you locate the elusive musical genre.

The youngest and newest of the three bands, The Flys have landed a coveted opening slot (in some parts of the country) on the Rolling Stones tour. This should definitely work to their advantage, coming hot on the heels of their popular single "Got You (Where I Want You)," from their *Holiday Man* disc (as well as the movie, and soundtrack for last year's teen flick *Disturbing Behavior*). Other high-flying moments occur on "Afraid," "Groove is Where You Find It," "Girls Are The Cruellest," "Sexual Sandwich," and the timely "The Gods of Basketball." It is also important to mention that co-lead singer Adam Paskowitz is simply breathtaking.

Speaking of The Rolling Stones, The Black Crowes have been compared to the Stones since their arrival almost ten years ago. Their raw Southern rocking blues sound (which is also reminiscent of early Rod Stewart, J Geils Band and Al Green) can be found in all its glory on *By Your Side*. Standout

tracks include the current single "Kicking My Heart Around," "Only A Fool," "Welcome To The Goodtimes," "Go Tell The Congregation," and "Diamond Ring."

The Tragically Hip is another band that has been around for ten years or so. Where The Flys and The Black Crowes represent Hollywood and the South, respectively, The Tragically Hip are a north-of-the-border (read Canadian) favorite. There is also an unmistakable Stones groove on "Poets," the song that opens The Tragically Hip's latest disc *Phantom Power*. It's an auspicious beginning, but fans of the band are probably anxious to hear The Tragically Hip's trademark pop sound, and it is here in abundance, as is evident from tracks such as "Bobcaygeon," "Thompson Girl," "Fireworks," and "Escape Is At Hand For The Travelling Man," to name a few. The Tragically Hip are also an alternative to the seemingly inescapable Barenaked Ladies. ▼

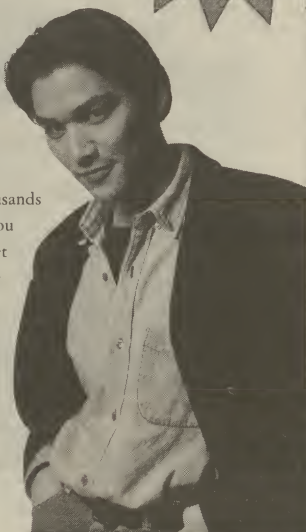
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A Thin Place...

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dium that can set in when territory is revisited. Directed by the playwright, the production is exceedingly spare but imaginatively evocative. The cast is a dedicated group, and their commitment to the material helps carry us along even when ours might be waning. Chris' sudden bout with invisibility is a case in point.

VanDerBeets plays Chris with a bristling intensity, whether confronting his boss on the dig or battling with images that he doesn't understand. Jason Sawyer Arquin goes in and out of multiple roles effectively, and Allyson Kulavis scores some laughs as a

doctoral candidate with a good-old-girl persona. Caroline Ford plays the avaricious head of the archeological dig with confidence. Billed as The Universe, Sam Yelland mutely serves as an onstage prop master, and Al Perez plays the dead-but-talkative archeologist.

All things considered, *A Thin Place in the Universe* is an impressive undertaking. But what its pieces add up to is a murky business. Me, I haven't even figured out what the title means. ▼

A Thin Place in the Universe will run in the Studio at Theatre Rhino through May 1. Tickets are \$15 and \$18. Call 861-5079.

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by Bob Roehr

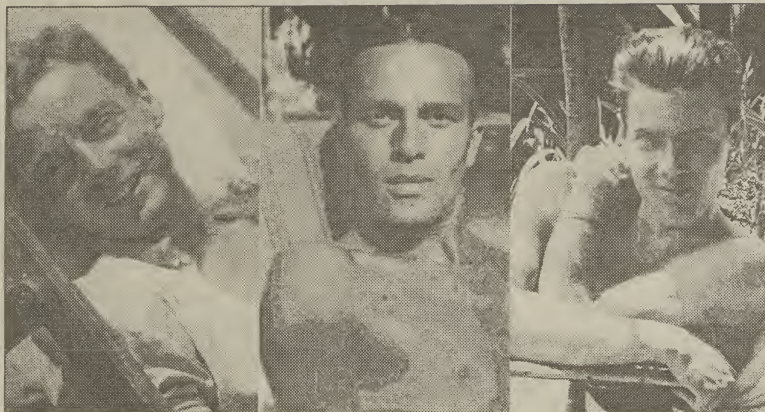
When We Were Three: The Travel Albums of George Platt Lynes, Monroe Wheeler, and Glenway Wescott, 1925-1935. Texts by Anatole Pohorilenko and James Crump. (Arena Editions, \$65)

Brilliant beautiful youth, a romantic setting of the Lost Generation in Europe between the wars, sex and love burning in a *menage à trois* and often beyond. It is not a work of fiction but of fact.

When We Were Three is the story of George Platt Lynes, Monroe Wheeler, and Glenway Wescott. Wescott was 27 and had already achieved a degree of success as a writer. Wheeler, 29, abetted this process in their then eight-year relationship.

Lynes was only 20 when, in 1928, he descended upon their residence in the south of France, already in love with Wheeler from an earlier brief fling in the United States.

The three would continue through a series of physical and emotional gyrations among themselves and with other partners until 1943. During the period Lynes would become a leading art and fashion photographer. He is best remembered for his male nudes. Wheeler would co-found a short-lived fine book press in Paris that produced treasured limited



Three's company: George Platt Lynes, Monroe Wheeler, and Glenway Wescott

editions, and return to New York, eventually to head up publications at the Museum of Modern Art. Wescott had periods of both writer's block and creative success.

The tale is told in an appropriately unique fashion, through two separate essays that bookend the major portion of the volume devoted to photos of the trio, their cultural and sexual friends.

Anatole Pohorilenko's essay muses on the difficulties of relationships, the confluence and separation of love and lust, as illustrated by the lives of these three. Each had recurring struggles with

those issues, as do many gay men today.

He writes that Wheeler "conceived an ideal homosexual as 'a male courtesan,' not as a prostitute, as the term has come to mean, but as a highly educated and socially refined individual who might attract the association of well-educated men of rank and wealth."

Wescott, in a fit of self-pity while still in his thirties, confided to his journal he felt "the awful dependence of middle-aged men upon young men whom they have no respect for, and vice versa."

The essays are unusually thought-provoking and entertaining. They demonstrate that such qualities can indeed coexist and are perhaps enhanced by brevity. The photos are intimate in tone and scale, a window to the lives, the fashion and flesh of an era that is no more.

The book is a physical joy of touch and sight, a paean to the art of publishing. Each page of thick, creamy vellum lies stiff in your hand, slightly oversized, with generous space between each line of text. Through it one understands the passion of a bibliophile. ▼

Sexual currency worldwide

by Marv. Shaw

Men Who Sell Sex edited by Peter Aggleton (foreword by Dennis Altman); Temple University Press, \$24.95 (paper), \$59.95 (cloth)

It's universal. The sale of male sex goes on everywhere, it appears, though much else about it varies considerably from nation to nation, as Peter Aggleton makes clear in great detail in this survey he subtitled, "International Perspectives On Male Prostitution and HIV/AIDS."

While the modes of sexual expression are standard, the readiness with which they can be secured varies depending on the financial need of the whore, the proscriptions prevalent among the mini-society of prostitutes he belongs to, and the prevailing interpretation of the act as it pertains to masculine status.

Whether it's a hand job, a blow job, or an ass-fuck depends on a sliding scale of prices, as do other favors. Though some sex workers (the preferred term by Aggleton) come from the middle classes, the great majority are from the poorer classes, often dirt-poor country kids who have moved to the city because their families had nothing.

But within the male sex worker class, another stricture operates, no matter if the man is native to the US, Western Europe, Latin America, East Asia, or Islamic North Africa. If he is the insertor, he is unquestionably male. If he takes it anally, he is effeminate. However, the hustler can do as the *vestidas* in Mexico do — deliberately feminize, a tactic which solves the problem in two ways: assuming the opposite gender's identity as a psychologically satisfying change, and taking on characteristics that enhance attractiveness for some clients.

Some facts related here will shock Western readers. The rudest one is the age at which many

of the workers get onto the game and the ways it happens. Beginning at 10 is a commonplace in some cultures, and often, it is an uncle of the lad who gets him into it. Or an older playmate. What would definitely be termed child abuse in the West is accommodated in many other parts of the world.

Because the fifteen chapters of *Men Who Sell Sex* are written by various reputable social scientists, much of the presentation tends to be couched in dry academes, but most of the authors include direct testimony from the sex workers themselves. Typical is this interview response in Cardiff, England: "I was sixteen years old. An old queen came up to me, and I thought, 'If he wants it badly enough, he can pay for it.' I told him that it would cost him 5 pounds for a wank. Silly old bugger gave me five pounds, and I wanked him off."

Evidence demonstrates that the relationship with HIV varies from laissez faire to strict control. Aggleton has created a valuable anthology here. This frank collection of statistics and testimony has brought realistic information into our understanding. To the assumption by many that hustlers are a vicious source of AIDS, the editor includes this riposte from a clinical worker: "The evidence is that very few patients bought it!" ▼

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BOOKS

Interview with author Allan Gurganus

Out from the wreckage

by David Lambie

There are just two kinds of people in the world: those who will help you and those who won't." In 1978, a Southern writer, Andrew Holleran, turned our then-very-recent memories of the death of disco and the mostly ineffable passions unleashed on the dance floor into a haunting elegy to the beautiful ghosts who had parted their way to oblivion. Twenty years later, another Southern writer has finally provided a kind of sequel to *Dancer From the Dance*.

"New York is an island and of course an extremely beautifully lit island and occasionally I would go out in a friend's boat and we would look back on New York and see some spectacular ocean liner and that image and metaphor, long before James Cameron thought of it, I must say, seemed to me appropriate for this extraordinary party which went on for so long and then sank so fast."

In *Plays Well with Others*, now out in paperback, Allan Gurganus tells the story of the new queer bohemia — of the writers, composers and painters who still see New York as their Everest to scale. Gurganus' trio of characters — the writer Hartley Mims, Jr., who lives to tell their story; the beautiful composer Robert Christian, Gustafson, whose legacy is an unfinished score called *Titanic*; and the petite but feisty painter, Angelina "Alabama" Byrnes — was inspired by Tennessee Williams' confession that he could never write about characters to whom he was not sexually attracted. "These three kids are extremely desirable to and among each other, though crucially never at the same time," Gurganus told me in a recent interview. "The joy for me of setting up this perpetual motion machine at the center of the book gave it a kind of extra energy. I mean, how many things can prose do on the page — it can make you weep, it can make you hungry, it can make you hard or wet — one of the things an artist does is to sit alone in a studio and test everything out on your own body. And if you can't get your own tear ducts flowing, then you're not doing your job; if you're not laughing out loud, then you can't expect anyone else to; and if you can't get an erection on

the basis of your sex scenes, then they're really not sex scenes whatsoever. I wanted the book to stay wet and young."

Treasure hunt

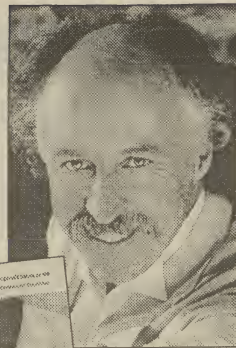
Early in the book, the once-beautiful Robert lies dying in his great four-poster bed — his final words are literally "broom closet" — indicating the hiding place of his two forbidden treasures: a pile of Swedish boy porn, and a huge collection of dildoes of all sizes and colors, contraband that must be removed from the prying eyes of Robert's minister father and datebread-baking mother. Hartley jams the frisky plastic penises into two designer shopping bags and heads for his own sublet, 90 blocks north via the West Side subway. Somewhere around 72nd Street the rain-drenched bags burst open, and all hell breaks loose on the IRT.

"Penises struck rubber floor matting with hideous rubberized zest. Many bounced so. Thirty dildoes are a lot of dildoes to try and catch on the move.... I turn: One older lady in black — lower body pelted by several humongous disembodied peckers — stands atop four to six. Hands pressed against her cheeks, staring down at sudden unleashed dickdom, she resembles someone riding a disorganized log raft right over Niagara. The aged virgin hollers those around her into early deafness.... One Spanish boy drop-kicks a black prick halfway down the car. It strikes an ad for dental surgery, then thuds against a businessman's shoulder, ricocheting. What this gent screams down here at me, me — already fallen on all fours, intently hunting/gathering — is extremely unpleasant. If probably accurate.... Strangers are united in their rage, complete sputtering disgust; they act abruptly joined, as only jaded New Yorkers can during some annoying natural disaster. 'Don't we have rights? And on a workday. Do we deserve this?' one chubby businesswoman shouts."

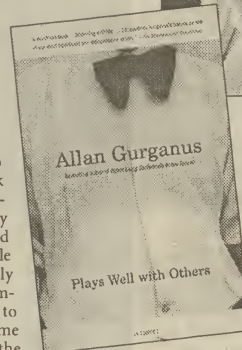
Ultimately, *Plays Well with Others* is of course a book about the A-word — and the trick is to see if Gurganus has written the AIDS novel to end all AIDS novels, the novel that will recall our community's now-fading memories of our saddest and finest hours — now that AIDS has started to fade from the front page of the paper, now that the lifeboats

of new drugs are creating many more survivors. Can he get us to return to the days when mere survival was something of a miracle?

"I wanted to be able to tell the story, not just of the disease, which has been told a million times — well and badly — but to really talk about friendship in the gay community and to give us a little credit, not only in our own community, but to give us some credit in the world," he said. "I think that to honor the Titanic metaphor, if I had been one of the lucky ones in the rowboat who survived and got to watch the ship go down, and if, as I have, I'd spent thirty years of my life figuring out how to write things down, I probably would have been writing on whatever scraps of paper were floating around on the bottom of the boat. I couldn't wait to get home and tell the truth. That's the feeling I had when I suddenly found myself washed up on the shore after this event. I felt I had lived through something that is



Allan Gurganus



extraordinary in history... and there is a kind of psychological dimension in the role of surviving that has never really been set down properly.

"The book is both a praise song to friendship, as opposed to erotic love, which is extremely transient as we all know. It is also a kind of investigation about caretaking. I think much of our literature is devoted to the people who break the plates, who are gorgeous and reckless and careless and break people's hearts, don't pay the rent, stiff the waiter, get the hell out of Dodge, leave people impregnated and heartbroken — but it seems to me that the harder job and the job that may be more interesting is to tell the stories of the people who get out the broom and clean up after

these people, who pay the bill though they know they'll never be repaid themselves, who stay and take care of others, who play well with others, as the title suggests. It's that role that interests me, in all my work. It's hard to write about middle-class people because we keep our secrets so well. But if you can break the code and get through those secrets, there is some amazing material waiting."

In a time when you can watch as many as two dozen gay and lesbian characters cavorting among five or more TV networks these days, where is the need for the gay novel? Gurganus feels that the novel may be the last real repository of the truth of our lives that is unfiltered through the commercial maws of television and, perhaps soon, the Internet.

"The beauty of being a writer is that it doesn't really cost much to write a book except out of your own bone marrow, but it's not a committee decision, there are no sponsors involved, you don't have to convince General Motors that this is a benign gay character. You can write whatever the hell you want to write. It's one reason that I'm not interested in screenwriting, not interested in having my work made into a TV series. I just want to stay in my room and tell the truth, in love as the Bible tells us to do. Because I'm inexpensive to myself, I can be expensive and outrageous on the page." ▼

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Diminishing returns

Paul Taylor Dance Company at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

by Stephanie von Buchau

First the good news: the Paul Taylor Dance Company looks better than ever. Taylor has always had at least two resident hunks, often chosen in his own mold — big, humpy guys whose presence in form-fitting, low-slung, elastic tights one-half size too small has always been one of the major turn-ons in American dance. This year, during Taylor's two-week season at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, I counted at least seven gorgeous specimens, with something for every taste.

There's smoldering Andrew Asnes, drop-dead handsome Thomas Patrick, wiry Richard Chen See, lean, intense Patrick Corbin, tall, smiling Ted Thomas, and tall, grave Takehiro Ueyama, plus a newcomer to me and audience favorite, Michael Trusnovic, but only if you like buzzcut, strawberry blond, Marine drill sergeant types. You don't? Then you are better off at *Giselle*.

Taylor's women have always been satisfying because, like Mark Morris' women, they look like human beings. They have butts, breasts and curves. Some are tall dominatrix types (Heather Berest in *Le Sacre*), some are ambiguously gendered in one dance and girly-girly in the next (Kristi Egtvedt in *Esplanade* or *Airs*). A few (Rachel Berman, Silvia Nevjinsky, Francie Huber) make the most fulfilled love objects or the most suffering rejectees. Then there is Lisa Viola, in a class by herself, an allegro artist whose evil demon in *The Word* and bereft mother in *Le Sacre* qualify for an aerobic endurance award, except that you get off on her musicality even more than on her energy.

Now the bad news, though it is fatal only in terms of the future and depressing only if you are a long-time Taylor watcher. Newcomers to the company (and

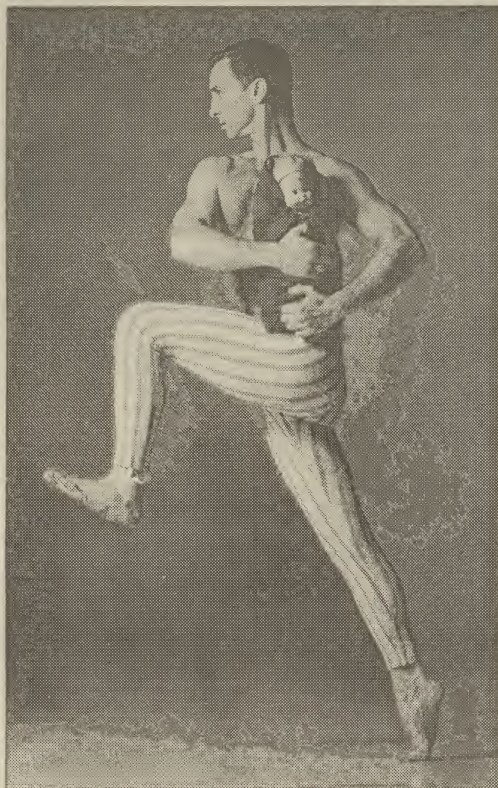
dance in general) seem to be seeking instant gratification and apparently (to judge from the ovation for *Piazzolla Caldera*) are not troubled by awkward matters of taste and/or co-option. The three programs I saw opened and closed with characteristic, upbeat Taylor pieces, *Mercuric Tidings* (music by Schubert) and *Esplanade* (music by Bach). Unfortunately, they were created in 1982 and 1975, respectively. Other fine choreographic efforts, *Cloven Kingdom*, *Arden Court* and Taylor's masterpiece, *Le Sacre du Printemps* (*The Rehearsal*), date from 1976 to 1981.

That means that on this tour, the most recent example of a completely successful work of art is 17 years old. Yes, there were three new pieces, but in the context of previous work — some of which was on these programs and therefore glaringly obvious to anyone concerned with such matters — they ranged from mildly stimulating (*The Word*) and mildly disappointing (*Eventide*) to absolutely enraging (*Piazzolla Caldera*).

Eventide (music by Vaughan Williams) has been called "distilled." Yet "distilled" in dance is like "reduction" in cooking — it should mean an increase in intensity, not an absence of sensation. *Eventide* is like *Esplanade* in that walking is its primary material. Yet in the mysterious slow movement of the latter, a woman attired like a man (the other girls are in flirty dresses) agonizes over some painful secret. (You can fill in the blanks.) *Eventide* has hints of intense private feeling (when Asnes abandons Berman or Huber tries to comfort Corbin), but mostly it just lies there and resolutely refuses to "come." If I had a lover that limp, I'd score him some Viagra.

Stiff tango

Lack of sexual intensity is not



Patrick Corbin in *Le Sacre du Printemps* (*The Rehearsal*)

the problem with *Piazzolla*, an audience hand-job that might be envied by Mikhail Smuine. Despite the use of the legendary Astor Piazzolla's tunes (stiffly inflected by Gidon Kremer; it's embarrassing when the most authentic tango music currently co-opted is heard in a Volkswagen Passat commercial), this dance has nothing to do with tango, the clue to which

comes from that marvelous description: "One body with four legs."

There is almost no torso-glued slow dancing in *Piazzolla Caldera*; instead, it is an incredibly vulgar display of aerobic slam-dancing, energetic yes, but not particularly musical, given the source. (Piazzolla considered his *nuevo tango* to be concert music anyway, not

dance hall accompaniments.) And low-class dance hall is what Taylor's piece seems to be about. The women's short skirts reveal black underwear and stocking tops; apparently, this has no effect, because the men spend more time rejecting the girls than dancing with them. Particularly humiliating is Huber's plea for love, only to be scorned by the entire male corps.

Piazzolla has one sparky sequence, however, a same-sex duet between Patrick and See, who may be drunk but end up doing barrel rolls in a 69 position that is both hot and funny — exactly the right tone for tango. In Taylor's defense, he never said *Piazzolla* was meant to represent tango; it is, after all, modern dance. Yet employing this music and a smug superscription from Pablo Neruda on the shameful impurity of tango (i.e. its humanity), Taylor sets himself up for the kind of outrage this tango maven felt throughout his slick, metrical, commercial dance.

The Word (original music by David Israel) is better, though it too has places that just sit there inertly, something that suggests Taylor's invention is no longer working at full capacity; there are no dead spots in *Mercuric Tidings*, *Esplanade* or *Le Sacre*. Also, Taylor has mined this strip — questions of faith and the dangers of religious fanaticism — before and better in *Byzantium*, *Last Look* and *Speaking in Tongues*. *The Word* (of God, natch) could just as easily and simplistically be called *O Repression!* *O Hypocrisy!*

The best aspects of this depressing tale of rigid religious conformity are Santo Loquasto's witty costumes (unisex British schoolboy drag with bright red lipstick for both men and women), Viola's scowling green snake, and the sheer energy that periodically sweeps away the fetid atmosphere of Puritanism. ▼

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Dancers open their studios

Bay Area Celebrates National Dance Week

by Aimée Ts'ao

Have you ever fantasized that you were salsa dancing down Mission Street in the Carnival parade, but still haven't gotten around to going to a salsa class out of shyness? Have you ever wondered what goes on during the creative process that brings a piece of choreography from the studio to the stage? Help may be in sight. Now you have the opportunity to experience the rich and vibrant local dance community by participating in the First Annual Bay Area Celebrates National Dance Week's Open Dance Studio events. Between April 24 and May 2 during National Dance Week, you can sample every kind of dance from Hip

next page ►



San Francisco's Dance Repertory

MUSIC



The East Bay's Wing It! Performing Ensemble

Dance Week

◀ page 38

Hop to Ballet, Flamenco to African, and Folklorico to Balinese, in San Francisco, the Peninsula, and the East, North and South Bays.

The San Francisco Bay Area is the second largest dance center in the United States. As Barbara Paige Kaplan of *Dance Magazine* explains, "You hear that New York is the dance center of the world. In terms of sheer numbers, yes, there are more dancers, dance companies and audience members there, because it's got a bigger population, but the dance heart is here." As a member of the Bay Area Celebrates National Dance Week [BACNDW] Steering Committee, Kaplan was amazed by the incredible generosity in the dance community. "All the work over an entire year in putting this together was done by volunteers and slave labor." No mean feat, considering the roster includes 111 dance companies, schools, theaters and organizations putting on more than 300 performances, classes, workshops and other events.

Although the idea for a week dedicated to bringing greater recognition to dance as an art form has been around for more than twenty years, it wasn't until 1981 that the Coalition for National Dance Week was formed by a group of forty dance organizations across the United States in a grass-roots movement. Through the years the basic premise that dance makes important contributions to our culture and daily lives was kept alive by the joint efforts of Alfred Terlizzi of Capezio dance shoe and clothing manufacturer, Bob Stern of *Dance Magazine* and Susan Wershing of *Dance Teacher Now* magazine. As is so common in our consumer age, when the marketplace and the potential for profits motivate seemingly altruistic behavior, it took the United Dance Merchants of America making a commitment to promoting National Dance Week in 1991 to finally give a big enough push that, by 1994, NDW was firmly on the cultural map.

Accessible, free

Last year, Kaplan decided that if New York, Chicago and Los Angeles could mount impressive celebrations of NDW, then San Francisco could, as well. A series of open public meetings quickly led to the formation of a Steering Committee because the number of participants was so large. A Steering Committee member, Pam Hagen of Lines Contemporary Ballet, recalls that "there was much more interest than we expected. We wanted to be very inclusive, so it was important that all the events should be fun, accessible, and most of all, free. The

greater community doesn't realize how much dance there is here and how amazingly diverse it is in terms of style. It's important to help people overcome their fear of the unknown and different and let them experience dance first hand." Hagen stresses that the goal of BACNDW is to put out the word that there is a vibrant dance world here in which everyone can participate.

Wayne Hazzard of Dancers' Group, also on the Steering Committee, says he was proud to be part of this enormous collaboration. "It was inspiring that so many people took the leap of faith that this could actually work. It's been a very healing event. For once, dance companies aren't competing with each other for the same grant money, but coming together to open their doors to the community at large. It's incredible for the very first year, and it can only get better."

The Open Dance Studio format was taken directly from the Artists' Open Studios idea, and that already existing program was extremely helpful in giving advice about the logistics of organizing, and sharing their experiences of what works and what doesn't. The planners hope, since the Bay Area community is familiar with the idea of open studios, it can make the jump of going to open dance studios.

Other highlights of the nine-day celebration include performances of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley and presenting Cunningham with a Lifetime Achievement Award; the 13th Annual Isadora Duncan Awards Ceremony at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts on April 26, with performances by Anna Halprin, Robert Moses and others; a Global Dance Party on May 1, with live music, costumes and dance lessons, sponsored by World Arts West at Club Havana (Pier 50, SF); and *The Planetary Dance*, Anna Halprin's multigenerational participatory ritual dance on Mount Tamalpais, May 2 at Noon.

Kaplan noted of the Bay Area, "We like to eat each other's food and share each other's culture. My vision is that one day we'll have a conga line with thousands and thousands of people in costume, snaking down Market to City Hall, dancing in the streets." Until that day, whether you choose to participate or just watch, here comes National Dance Week. You've got nothing to lose but your inhibitions or a bit of flab. ▼

For a National Dance Week brochure of events, performances and classes, call (415) 835-3100, or check the website at www.voiceofdance.org.

Nell Carter

◀ Arts cover

when I found out about [San Francisco-based] Project Inform after he died, I was angry. And when I met Marty [Project Inform co-founder Martin Delaney], I went totally bonkers on him. And it was not for anything he did. In most cities, they don't know about Project Inform."

Since then, Carter has included references to Project Inform in interviews, and she's become a frequent performer at AIDS benefits. Sometimes she donates her services, and other times she slashes her fee, which is the case with her performance with the Gay Men's Chorus.

"I feel reasons for hope, but if you don't remember the past and celebrate it, even if it's sad, there is no future," she said. "You just can't pretend, 'Oh, we've got cock-tails. That never happened.' But you can still be joyous that you're alive, and joyous of what you can do to help."

R & r orders

Carter was on her back as she talked, on doctor's orders following a recent hernia operation. "I'm supposed to recline for a few days, and then it's back to the gym," she said. "I want to lose 30 pounds before I come up to see you. Okay, girl, get real. I'd have to be jumping the rest of my life to lose 30 pounds."

A much more serious operation nearly ended her life in 1992 when severe headaches led to the discovery of two aneurysms pressing against her brain. Because of her weight, doctors removed the aneurysms in separate operations. But Carter was back to full speed



The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

within a year, a recovery fueled by her concerns for her young adopted sons, both now 9.

There were earlier travails, including a rape at age 16 that produced a daughter, and an addiction to cocaine that lasted from her Broadway days in *Ain't Misbehavin'* through most of her long television run in *Gimme a Break*. She credits Liza Minnelli for getting her into a rehab program that finally worked.

Along the way, there were a couple of marriages and several miscarriages, leading to her decision to adopt. She converted to Judaism in the mid-'80s, and she's grooming at least one of her sons to be "the first black Jewish president of the United States." They can go into show business, she adds, once she is dead and buried.

Through it all, Carter said she

has emerged as "a very happy person" who doesn't fret too much about her career. "As long as I'm happy and I'm working," she said. "I would love to do Broadway again, and I'd love to do a series again, and if it happens, it happens. But I'm more excited about the concert coming up. I'm very honored that I get a chance to sing with them because they could have had anyone. Of course, I probably would have killed the person who chose that other star. Not that I claim to be a big star. Well, big, yes." ▼

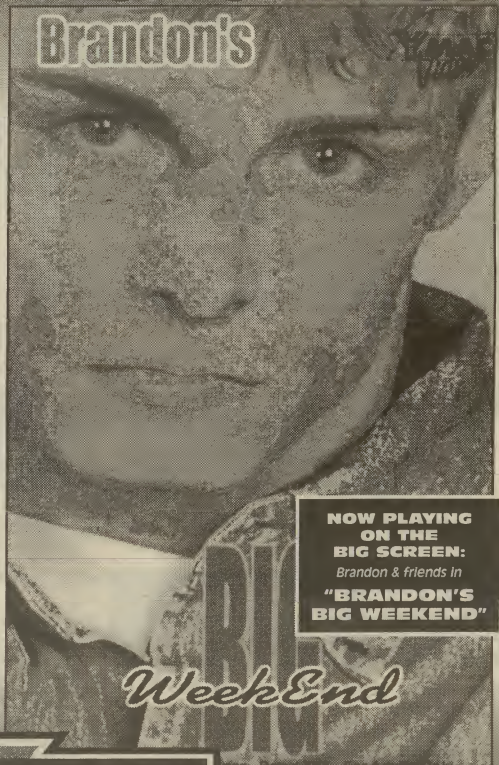
Nell Carter and the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will perform at 8 p.m. April 24 and 2 p.m. April 25 at Masonic Auditorium. Tickets are \$10-\$40. Call 863-4472.

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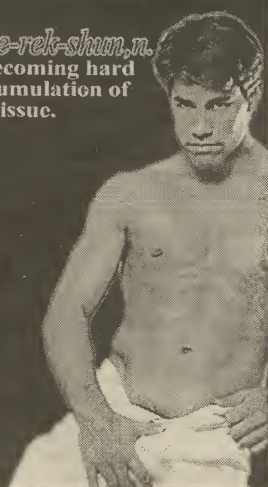
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While the maestro's away

SF Symphony plays with guest conductors

by Philip Campbell

Two weeks of San Francisco Symphony concerts without Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas at the helm have proved something about his leadership — namely, the orchestra is playing better than ever. The guest conductors have been perfectly satisfactory and the programs more than adequate, but it is the quality of performance that has impressed us the most.

Jiri Belohlávek, founder and Music Director of the Prague Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra, made his SFS debut in March 1994 with a memorable concert that included Penderecki's searing Viola Concerto featuring our own Geraldine Walther as soloist. That bill also showed his flair with Dvorak in that composer's thrilling Slavonic Dances. Two years later, he returned with more Dvorak and the seldom performed G minor Piano Concerto.

After another two-year interval, Belohlávek returned this month, still offering fairly obscure Dvorak and almost making us believe the tone poems are as good as the symphonies. Unfortunately, the centerpiece of this year's program simply couldn't hold a candle to the startling emotionalism of Penderecki's utterance or the melodious lines of Dvorak's piano essay.

Russian-born violinist Boris Belkin made his debut here with the Violin Concerto in D minor, Opus 8 by Richard Strauss and, while we could applaud his originality in choice, it is a negligible piece that offers little insight to Strauss or to Belkin's superior technique. A few bravura moments and some decorative touches make the Concerto pleasant enough listening, but Belkin has made his name with Shostakovich and Paganini. This was an almost willful avoidance of showiness that only hinted at this accomplished performer's reserves of power.

The concert opened with Smetana's fizzing Overture to *The Bartered Bride* and continued

with *Three Dances* from that same opera. Belkin finished the first half with his presentation of the young Strauss, unformed and scarcely recognizable as the man who would go on to write *Salome*. It was a letdown.

The tone poem *The Wood Dove* and *Scherzo capriccioso* are hardly top-drawer Dvorak either, but at least they showed the orchestra to brilliant effect, and the night ended in a mood of robust energy. Some listeners remarked that the program was little more than an ambitious pops concert, and it was a fair assessment — pleasant, but unfulfilling.



Conductor Hugh Wolff

Wolff whistles

Last week brought Hugh Wolff back to the podium at Davies Hall after a year's absence. Recognized for his success in seven seasons with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, he remains a charming and capable conductor. His

youthful appearance and demeanor belie his 46 years, but then Michael Tilson Thomas is older still, and he is every bit as lively. Wolff's similar attitude was echoed in his choice of program.

A fairly mixed bag of the old, new and relatively modern added up to a satisfying, but rather brief evening. Mozart's *Serenade in C minor* for Winds was a delightful opener — perfectly apt for the summery weather we were enjoying. It was well-paced and demonstrated how versatile our players can be in an intimate showcase.

Peter Lieberman's Viola Concerto (first SFS performances) brought Principal Violist Geraldine Walther into the spotlight once more. How accomplished and fine a player she has become! Of course, her overnight success has been achieved after 23 years with the orchestra. She still displays an endearing air of shyness, but she has matured into a major artist — poised and confident as well.

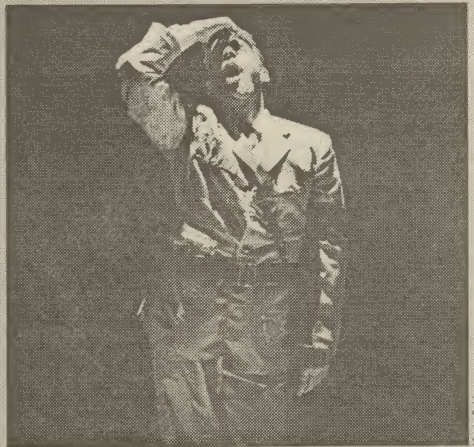
Lieberman's Concerto is in two, rather than the usual three movements, and it does not appear to have more on its mind than pleasant diversion. There are enough moments of bravura to prove that the viola is more than second fiddle to the brilliant violin, and the first movement, *Rhapsody*, has some lovely and thoughtful touches. The second movement, *Scherzo*, is lively and snappy. Wolff played beautifully throughout and managed a coherent line over some tricky rhythmic background.

Peter Lieberman was on hand for the regular pre-concert lecture, and his intelligent remarks to interviewer Charles Barber cer-

next page ►

DANCE

He's an animal



The Stephen Pelton Dance Theater presents a series of evening-length performances entitled *Animal Acts*, through May 2 at Z Space Studio, 1360 Mission Street. The shows feature three world premiere solos which tell stories of animals and humans: *The Training of My Tigers*, *Bird*, and *Pretty Horses*. Pelton also performs *The Hurdy-Gurdy Man* (pictured), in which all movement is taken from documentary footage of Adolf Hitler; and his adaptation of Virginia Woolf's short story *The Death of the Moth*.

Animal Acts runs Thurs.-Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 7 p.m. through May 2. Tickets are \$12-15. Call 437-6775. ▼

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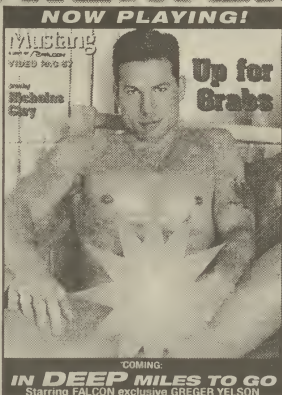
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Through the Glass lightly

'Monsters of Grace' at Zellerbach Auditorium in Berkeley

by Tim Pfaff

Prolific is as prolific does. Last week, Bay Area audiences encountered major performances of weirdly comparable works by two composers who are seldom mentioned in the same breath but represented the leaders of the pack in their respective eras and put out, musically speaking, in a big way. Cal Performances gave a notable five performances (guaranteed and actual sell-outs) of *Monsters of Grace*, a Philip Glass-Robert Wilson collaboration that it seems to have been one of the few arts organizations not to have co-commissioned. (This "Digital Opera in Three Dimensions" ended a 33-city international tour in Zellerbach Auditorium.) And at week's end Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra gave the first of five performances of Haydn's *The Seasons*, with which it brings its current season to a close.

There was no mistaking either work as fully representative Glass or Haydn, but there was little mistaking, either, that with these works both composers were getting by with business as usual rather than staking out new territory. Is more better? Even the potent combination of genius and public acclaim would appear to have its price.

It's hard to ascertain what Robert Wilson's contribution to *Monsters* is, precisely. The visuals in the 3-D projections that made up the whole of the nonmusical show had an austere beauty of a Wilsonian variety, and the Mondrian-like geometries and penetrating vertical and horizontal shafts of light recalled similar elements in his stage works, if with muted power. A team of computer animators, however resourceful, is still incapable of outdoing a master of live performance, and that — even for an audience not just willing but eager to don those cardboard 3-D glasses for 75 minutes (I'm not at all convinced that the real show in Zellerbach wasn't for the members of the Philip Glass Ensemble, who got to watch us all sitting there in our multimedia stupor) — and that, folks, is the good news for the theater arts at the end of the century.

The show boasted compelling images of desertscapes that magically metamorphosed into seascape; enormous, liquid geo-

metric shapes that floated out over the audience; what at first appeared to be a tennis ball or exotic tropical fruit that turned out, from a slowly revolving perspective, to be a cat sleeping (my personal favorite); a "little boxes" suburban landscape across which a bird flew and a bicyclist slowly rode out over the audience; and disembodied feet and hands, one of the latter of which was slowly carved open by a scalpel. Whether it was art remains an open question. That it was absorbing on its own terms is beyond doubt.

Glass' score has been welcomed as one of his most beautiful in recent years, but you couldn't prove that by me. I've found his music bearable only when it accompanies visuals that are compelling in their own

right (or rite; in the past I've appreciated his Gandhi opera, *Satyagraha*, and really liked his soundtrack for *Koyaanisqatsi*), and for me the effort of telling one piece from another has consistently been confounded by the mentally anesthetizing quality of the music itself. To these ears, it just seems to come like an endless bolt of yardgoods; snip off as much as you need to cover the space at hand. But I recognize that I'm in the minority here. What I can say is that, in Zellerbach once again, those who liked liking it liked it, to use the locution of Gertrude Stein, who for me has always known more about the power of repetition than Glass and his fellow minimalists.

The undeniable power of *Monsters of Grace* is the Rumi poems Glass takes as his texts — and sets in a way that the words for the most part come across clearly. Even if the 13th-century Sufi poet has become the flavor of the month in artistic as well as spiritual circles, his poetry retains its force today. Loose it anywhere, and it exerts its power anew.

I admit that, in context, I had a cynical take on "Where Everything is Music," the first of 13 Rumi verses Glass sets. "Don't worry about saving these songs!" Rumi begins (I thought, "Gotcha"). "And if one of our instruments breaks, it doesn't matter. We have fallen into the place where everything is music." ("In your dreams," quoth I.) But by the poem's final line, "Stop the words now," my resistance was already broken down. It's hard not to succumb to Rumi's exhortation to "open the window in the center of

gorgeous central section, with one of those maddeningly unforgettable melodies, was almost like a love scene from an ideal film version of *Anna Karenina*. The orchestra played divinely, with some exquisite solo turns. The finale was also vintage Rachmaninoff, and the method in Wolff's earlier restraint became apparent. With all the stops out, the musicians tore the house down.

MTT needn't worry about guest conductors supplanting him, he has made the orchestra play this well. When he returns to the podium for the Stravinsky festival in June, he can be told his players did him proud while he was away. ▼



Monsters of Grace director Robert Wilson and composer Philip Glass

your chest, and let the spirits fly in and out," which is more or less what happened over the next hour and 20 minutes. As I listened to "My Worst Habit," a real-time per-

sonal enmity that had been disturbing me dissolved in a moment of grace. Rumi made me roomy, than which far worse things can happen in concert halls.

'Seasons' to taste

Philharmonia gave one of its great performances with Haydn's *The Creation* a few seasons back, which made me eager for *The Seasons*. But for all its musical virtues, beautifully articulated in Elisabeth LeGuin's program note, *The Seasons* is a lesser work. It was almost literally the last gasp from Haydn — a composer of unbelievable fecundity who had already left the world an enormous treasure trove of first-rate music by that point in his long life — and Friday night that's the way it sounded. The orchestra played decently, the soloists were fine, and the Philharmonia Chorale mustered amazing energy in Herbst Theatre, where the season du jour was sweltering summer. I only made it three seasons.

Speaking of which, *Three Seasons*, the Tony Bui film that took the top prizes at Sundance and opened the Asian-American Film Festival last month, is due to begin its commercial run at the end of this month. In this deeply moving film set in present-day Vietnam, the director, a 26-year-old Bay Area who came here from Saigon with his family when he was two, weaves four narrative strands with masterful agility and an astonishing sense of dramatic counterpoint. One of them is about the power of music, about which enough said for now. Don't miss it. Betcha can't see it just once. ▼

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SF Symphony

◀ previous page

tainly helped this listener in understanding what he was hoping to achieve. He likes the viola and he has given other fanciers of that instrument a happy addition to the growing repertoire. How lucky he was to find Geraldine Walther to perform his piece.

The evening concluded with Rachmaninoff's scintillating *Symphonic Dances*, Opus 45. Conductor Wolff took a long overview of the score, and the first movement seemed curiously underpowered until it could be judged as part of a cumulative effect. The

OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Flamenco dancer Rosa Montoya

Moorish dreams

Who among us has not harbored notions of traveling to Spain and indulging in passionate affairs with sensitive, dark-eyed souls who sing sweet Andalusian tunes in our ears while leading us through enchanted places like the Great Mosque in Cordoba, the Giralda Minaret in Sevilla, or the Royal City of the Alhambra in Granada?

All those places are elegant reminders of the 700-year period when Islamic Moors transformed what is now Spain into a thriving realm of culture and world trade. Some of us may indeed be lucky enough to visit those locales and realize our fantasies, but for most, Spain is but a distant alluring dream.

Yet this Friday and Saturday at Herbst Theatre, a slice of Moorish life will be coming to us as **Humanities West** presents *A Spanish Paradise: Moors in Andalusia*. It's a program of performances and lectures designed to stir our romantic blood as a host of musicians, dancers, and lecturers recreate that period after the 630s when Muslim armies burst out of the Arabian Peninsula and spread in a great wave of conquest that eventually reached deep into the heart of Europe.

As lecturer **F.E. Peters** will explain, under Muslim sovereignty, Jews, Christians and Muslims lived together in al-Andalus in peace and prosperity. Among the fruits of Moorish culture, as guest speaker **Antonio Orihuela** of Granada, Spain will describe, were original styles of ornate architecture, including the only Islamic palaces from the Middle Ages still standing in the world.

Perhaps the most lasting contributions of Moorish culture are its music and dance, both showcased during the program. Highlights include **Marhaba**, a traditional Moroccan musical ensemble, playing songs on handmade instruments, and **Rosa Montoya Bailes Flamenco**. The renowned San Francisco troupe will demonstrate the fiery Andalusian music and dance forms of the period.

Perhaps, if you're lucky, such romantic offerings will seduce you into jumping on a plane for Spain to have a passionate fling with Moorish delights. ▼

"A Spanish Paradise: The Moors in Andalusia," takes place Friday, April 23, 8-10:15pm, and Saturday, April 24, 10am-4pm at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tickets range from \$20 to \$50, available through City Box Office at 392-4400. For more information, call Humanities West at 391-9700.

Comedian Sara Felder performs her queer *Shtick!* at A Traveling Jewish Theatre. See Thursday.



Eg

SF Art Institute

The Bay Area William S. Burroughs Memorial and Tribute, a celebration of his life and work. Featured guest speakers include Michael McClure, Barry Gifford, Harold Norse, Diane Di Prima (on video), S. Clay Wilson, and James Grauerholz, among others. Includes screenings of rarely seen Burroughs films. \$7 at door. 7pm. SFAI, 800 Chestnut St. (btwn. Jones & Leavenworth). 362-1465.

A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books

Poet and writing teacher Aaron Shurin reads from *The Paradise of Forms*, a new survey of all his work, from 1980's *Giving Up the Ghost to Unbound: A Book of AIDS* in 1997. Shurin is one of the most respected gay writers of our time and a poet at the front of today's avant-garde. Free. 7:30pm. Opera Plaza, 601 Van Ness Ave. 441-6670.

Josie's

"Bowling Ball Blues," starring Patty Lockard and back-up vocal trio New Brunswick in a humorous musical flash-back about growing up star-struck in Wyoming. Featuring the songs of the Mama's and Papa's, the Supreme's, Elvis, Peggy Lee, the Chiffons and more. \$15. 8pm. Thru 4/25. Josies Cabaret & Juice Joint. 861-7933.

OmniCircus

"Orgy of Doubt," a new multimedia music-dance-ritual with robotics, created by Frank Garvey as a frontal attack on the unconscious. It's described as a psychotic children's show, featuring live performance by the virtuosos, cold-fusion, psycho-surrealist music ensemble DeusMachina, plus a robotic ensemble including Goboy, the robot beggar, Plowgirl, the mechanical junkie, and Godfella, the robotic street preacher. Also: One-Legged Men at a Butt-Kicking Contest. \$8-\$14 sliding. 8pm. OmniCircus Performance Space, 550 Natoma St. (btwn. 6th & 7th, Mission & Howard; door on Russ St.). Info: 621-4068.

Tse Chen Ling Center

"Praises to Tara," a group visualization meditation with mantra recitation and chanting of the Praises to the 21 Taras, beginning with a short lesson in Tibetan linguistics. The great female Bodhisattva Tara symbolizes enlightened activity. Students at all levels welcome. Donation appreciated. 7pm. Tse Chen Ling Center for Tibetan Buddhist Studies, 4 Joost Ave. (near Glen Park BART). Info: 339-8002.

Luna Sea

"The Island of MisFit Toys — Are you here Baby," written and performed by Gina Gold. She chronicles her life as a phone-sex operator and lap dancer. With cameo performances by Damon Zeiger and Eliza McKenna. \$10-\$15. 8pm. Also on 4/24. Luna Sea Women's Performance Project, 2940 16th St. #216-C. 863-2989.

Jon Sims Center

AI/Space artists Violent Dwarf present "Checkered," with choreography, theater and music by Krista DeNio, Tanya Calamoneri, and Allen Willner. Described as: "A Jew, a catholic, and a child of the truth. A sin in progress, violent dwarf, a sensual, yet organized orgasm, in timely fashion." \$5-\$10 sliding. 8:30pm. Also on 5/21 & 7/2. The Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 11th). 554-0402.

New Langton Arts

Composer John Bischoff presents a selection of computer music works composed over the last two decades. He is a founder of the League of Automatic Music Composers, the first computer network band, and serves on the faculty of the Center for Contemporary Music at Mills College in Oakland. \$8 (\$6 students/seniors). 8pm. 1246 Folsom St. 626-5416.

Gershwin Theatre

Lamplighters Music Theatre presents a staged "concertized" version of *Utopia Limited*, a lesser known operetta by Gilbert & Sullivan. It tells the story of a fictitious tropical island ruled by King Paramount. Conducted by Baker Peeples. The Lamplighters are one of the nation's premier companies performing

light opera, long revered in the gay community. \$25. 8pm. Also on 4/24 (8pm) and 4/25 (2pm). The Ira & Lenore S. Gershwin Theatre, 2350 Turk Blvd. Tix: 978-2787.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

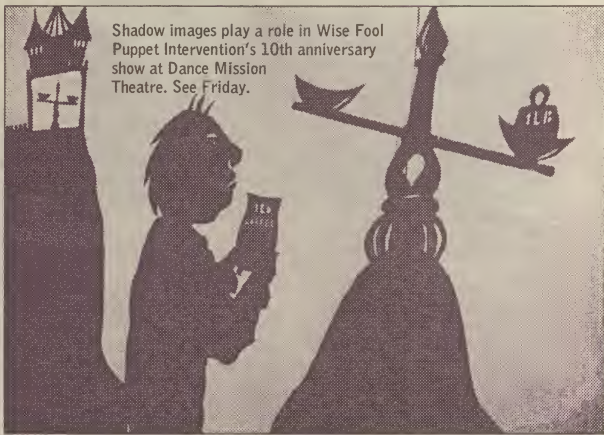
The Nanjing Race, a cross-cultural drama by Reggie Cheong-Leen, directed by Arturo Catricala. Hidden agendas and passion clash in this play about sexual preference, social reality, race, and blind ambition. \$20. 8pm. Thru 5/8. 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Dance Mission Theater

Wise Fool Puppet Intervention celebrates its 10th anniversary with a show of giant shadow puppets, bunraku puppets, storytelling, stilt-walking, dance, music, fire and trapeze. Plus special guests. \$10-\$15. 8pm (7pm Sun.). Thru 4/24. 3316 24th St. Info/Tix: 905-5958.

550 Barneveld

"Pretty in Pink," New Wave Prom Night, hosted by DJs Skip & Shindog. Bring a date or test your fate and re-live the prom of your dreams. Everyone is welcome and celebrated, particularly those who may have been considered out-of-place the first time around. \$5 if dressed in prom/semi-formal attire; \$10 in street clothes. 9pm-3am. Near Bayshore, between Oakdale & Industrial (follow the searchlights). 675-LOVE.



Shadow images play a role in Wise Fool Puppet Intervention's 10th anniversary show at Dance Mission Theatre. See Friday.

Sat

Hartford St. Zen Center

Open house, featuring an introduction to Zen and to meditation. The center has served the Castro community since 1981, offering twice-daily meditations, lectures and classes. All welcome. Refreshments served. Free. 2pm-4pm. 57 Hartford St. (btwn. 17th & 18th streets). Info: 863-2507.

A Different Light

Ira Silverberg and James Grauerholz, editor of *Word Virus: The William S. Burroughs Reader*. Free. 5pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

MACT Citihiike

Men of All Colors Together take their monthly Citihiike. Destination: Twin Peaks. For the fit and fit-aspiring. Rain or shine. Free. Depart promptly at 11am from Starbucks at Church & Market Streets. Info: 675-0201.

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents "Texture of the Gesture," a program of hand-processed films, curated by Ken Paul Rosenthal. Featuring 15 short films chemically developed by the individual filmmakers, resulting in unexpected granular delicacies, shimmering silvers, and colors too ephemeral to name. \$5. 8:30pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Crossroads Women's Center

"March for Mumia — Women's Contingent" fundraising breakfast. 9am. 333 Valencia, Room 350. Info: 626-4114.

Millions for Mumia March

The Rainbow Flags Contingent of the Millions for Mumia March (in support of jailed African American journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, who many believe was framed in 1981 for the murder of a Philadelphia policeman) assembles at 10:30am at 18th & Castro prior to joining others in Dolores Park. The issue has ignited many in the L/G/B/T community who feel that combatting racial injustice goes hand in hand with combatting homophobia.

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Big Basin beach-to-waterfalls hike, enjoying redwoods along the way. It's a strenuous 16-mile hike with a 2,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8am under the big Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Carpool cost is \$15 to be shared among passengers. Club info: 487-6410.

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Living Sober presents

"Spring Follies & Drag Show," a fundraising event. \$8-\$15 suggested donation. 9pm. Preceded at 8pm by an AA/Alanon meeting. Info: John A. at 861-2302.

Club Lunaceo, San Rafael

Benefit performances for Marin Breast Cancer Watch, featuring live entertainment by the Katherine Ivy Duo, Wills in Motion, Melissa Page, and the Three Something Rock Band. Iris Dean emcees. \$7. 8pm-1:30am. 815 W. Francisco Blvd., San Rafael. Info: (415) 459-6079.

Warfield Theatre

"Way Beyond Tel Aviv," a show celebrating Israel Independence Day. Featuring a full-length concert by Israeli rock star Berry Sakharof, the Mizrahi vibe of Za'atar, and DJs spinning Israeli and American dance beats. \$15 advance; \$18 door; \$12 students. 18+ w/d. Doors open 8pm; show starts 8:30pm. 982 Market St. Tix at BASS and TicketWeb.

Syn

Parents Place

Join others in talking about being Jewish and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer, and about raising children. Co-hosted by Parents Place (a program of Jewish Family and Children's Services) and Alternative Family Project. \$5. 1pm-3pm. 3272 California St. Info: 563-1041, ext. 122.

A&PI Wellness Center

"GAPA Rap: Jocks & Sissies," a discussion by and for Asian Pacific men about the role of sports and fitness in our personal well-being. To be followed by dinner and bowling. Sponsored by the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance. 5pm-7pm. 730 Polk St., 4th floor. Info: 282-GAPA.

A Different Light

"Mecca," a monthly open mic for readers and performers. Sign up at 12:30pm for 5-minute slots. Free. 1pm.

Mon

Yerba Buena Center

The 13th Annual Isadora Duncan Dance Awards (aka the "Izzies"), honoring Bay Area dance artists and their collaborators. A National Dance Week celebration. \$12 advance; \$15 door. 7pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St. (at 3rd). Tix: 978-2787.

Jack Adams Hall, SFSU

Screening: "Father, Son, and Holy War," a documentary film by Anand Patwardhan

that examines the complexities of violence and women's resistance in India, and questions notions of manhood. Presented by S.F. Women Against Rape and the SFSU Women's Studies Dept. as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Free. 6pm. Student Union, San Francisco State University. Info: 861-2024, ext. 304.

Community Music Center

Concert with conversation, featuring acclaimed pianist Santiago Rodriguez, one of the world's foremost interpreters of the music of Sergei Rachmaninov. Free. 5:30-6:30pm. 544 Capp St. (btwn. 20th & 21st streets). Info: 647-6015.

Theater Artaud

Renee Gibbons reads from her book, *You Don't Push the River*, and leads a discussion on surviving breast cancer. Hosted by Cancer as a Turning Point. Part of the series "50 Pillows and a Rug." Bring a pillow and dress warmly. \$5 optional. 7pm. 450 Florida St.

El Rio

"Hairnetta's Hotspot," hosted by Pippi Lovestocking, featuring Pretzel the Amazing Contortionist, stripper Tina la Squeeze, acoustic musician Gigs, and a "Ms. Lesbian America" skit by the Dollywackers. With music by DJ Romanowski and eats by Leslie. \$5. 8pm. 3158 Mission St. (at Cesar Chavez).

Tue

Green Room

The Left Coast Chamber Ensemble premieres *Crossed Paths*, a work for cello and harpsichord by Gabriel Vine, plus other harpsichord works from three centuries. \$15 (\$12 seniors/students). 8pm. Green Room, War Memorial Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Ave. 642-8054.

GAWK

The Gay Artists and Writers Collective meets. All queer video editors, musicians, club promoters, comedians, DJs, actors, writers, etc. invited to join and share ideas. Free. 8pm. Fort Mason location. Info: Jon Sugar at 731-2424.

Wed

Dancers' Group Studio Theater

Edge Festival preview: Ashley Hayes and Marijoh Danz theatre present an evening of new dance-theater works, including *Bukowski*, *Raw from the Page* and *Beautifully Crude*, featuring a cast of 10, and *Good Girls Don't*, *But I Do*, a comedic take-off on the book *The Rules*. Free tonight only. Other nights: \$5-\$14. 8pm. Weekends thru 5/16. 3221 22nd St. Info: 824-5044.

Yerba Buena Center

Screening: "Ben Dov: Images of a Dreamer," about Yakov Ben Dov, who came to Jerusalem from the Ukraine in 1907 with little more than a still camera to his name. He became one of the most accomplished cinematographers of his time. \$6. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Mission St. at Third. 978-ARTS.

Venue 9

The Idris Ackamoor Ensemble perform music from their recent and forthcoming CDs. Ackamoor, a jazz saxophonist, composer and tap dancer (among other things), has led a variety of music groups, in-

The Idris Ackamoor Ensemble play avant-garde jazz South of Market, at Venue 9. See Wednesday.



Sageyer/Capparel

cluding the seventies avant-garde African/jazz group The Pyramids. \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 289-2000.

Thu

A Traveling Jewish Theatre

"Shtick! — A Queer Play on Jewish Vaudeville," written and performed by Sara Felder. Directed by Jayne Wenger. In this work in progress, Felder draws upon her circus experience and 12 years of creating theater to embrace a queer Yiddishkeit, a reinterpretation of Yiddish culture hospitable to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Jews. A mosaic of comic clowning and satire. \$20. 8pm (2pm & 7pm Sundays). Thru 5/30. 470 Florida St. (at 17th & Mariposa). 399-1809.

Luna Sea

Q-Spirit, a queer spirituality group, presents a special

fundraising event, "Celebrating the Magic of Q-Spirit." Featuring master magician Walt Anthony, percussionist Afia Walking Tree, actress Kat Al-Shamma, recording artist Giovanni Alfieri, and Jason Serinus. \$10-\$25 sliding. 7:30-9:30pm. 2940 16th St. #216-C. 281-9377.

SoMar Cultural Center

Asian American Theater Company presents "Pieces of the Quilt," original short plays on the AIDS epidemic, written by Erin Cressida Wilson, Rhodessa Jones and others. Featuring live performance, song, music and mixing, with actor Sean San José, percussionist Josh Jones (Josh Jones Latin Ensemble; Omar Sosa), chanteuse/actor Scheherazade Stone (Human Flavor), sound design by DJ Fuze (Digital Underground) and live mixing and DJing from the Mission District's Baby Al Dog. \$12 (\$10 students/seniors). 8pm. Also on 4/30. 934 Brannan St. 440-5545.

World Tea House

Opening reception: Pho-

tographs by Norm Halm. A familiar presence in the photography studio of renowned gay photographer Daniel Nicoletta, Halm strikes off on his own with this exhibition. Free. 6:30-9:30pm. Tea & Company World Tea House, 2207 Fillmore St.

Theater Artaud

Hip Hop dance performance by Rennie Harris PureMovement, weaving together West African, Afro-Caribbean, and African American dance traditions. Harris calls on the Hip Hop vocabulary of popping, locking, stepping, break, house and funk to create electrifying ensemble and solo pieces. 450 Florida St. Call for time & ticket prices: 621-7797.

Make*A*Circus gym

Teen acrobats, jugglers and clowns show off the skills they learned as apprentice circus performers. Followed by a reception. Free. 5pm. 755 Frederick St. (across from Kezar Stadium). Info: 242-1414.

Club-I Internet Cafe

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation presents a Digital Queers Initiative meeting: "The Third Place: What Makes Our Online Community Tick?" A way for L/G/B/T online users to meet and share ideas. Free. 7-9pm. 850 Folsom St. (btwn. 4th & 5th). Info: Loren Javier at 861-2244.

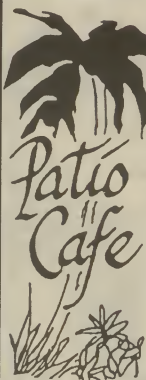
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

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Grilled Pork Chops with apple-cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy\$11.95

Chicken Cordon Bleu stuffed with fontina cheese & honey-baked ham\$9.75

Fresh Atlantic Salmon grilled or poached with white wine-lemon-dill sauce, chef's rice or potatoes\$11.75

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PROGRAM A (APR 23): *RUNE*, MUSIC BY CHRISTIAN WOLFF; *EVENT FOR BERKELEY BIPED* (WORLD PREMIERE), MUSIC BY GAVIN BRYARS

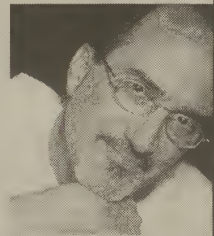
PROGRAM B (APR 24): *CRWDS/SPCR*, MUSIC BY JOHN KING; *POND WAY*, MUSIC BY BRIAN ENO; *BIPED* (WORLD PREMIERE), MUSIC BY GAVIN BRYARS

Michael Brecker, saxophone

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Learning our leather ABC's

by Mister Marcus

A record crowd of almost 300 gay and straight leather and SM people gathered in San Francisco last weekend to attend the 3rd Leather Leadership Conference (LLC3).

The action, which took place at the Holiday Inn at Van Ness Ave. & Pine St., included workshops geared toward enhancing the leadership skills of young and new adherents to our lifestyle, all in the hopes they will someday take active roles in guiding the leather nation.

Needless to say, the various workshop presenters also learned a thing or two by dropping in on other presentations, further augmenting their own skills.

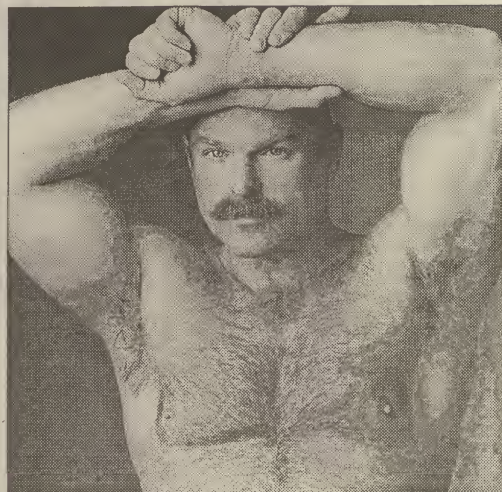
Guy Baldwin served as the keynote speaker at the conference opening on Friday night, April 16, and didn't disappoint. He offered a concise interpretation of leadership — defining it to make clear who has the knack, and who only thinks they have it.

Mr. Baldwin told it exactly like it is. And while no one in particular was pointed out, almost everyone listening had a name or two in mind, reflecting on a person or persons they know or have known who consider themselves "leaders" when, in fact, they have no followers.

The name Ron Hadfield came to mind in this context. It was made plain as day. Any so-called leader, who rules rather than leads, is not a leader at all.

It was an inspiring, insightful talk. And while telling it like it is, Mr. Baldwin sprinkled his comments with humor to soften some of the biting truths.

It's no wonder Mr. Baldwin is



Marshall Miller won the Mr. September 2000 spot on the bare chest calendar last Thursday, April 17. He beat out eight other contestants. Mr. October will be chosen on Thursday, April 29 at the Powerhouse.

still held in high esteem. As he demonstrates, true leaders gain nothing by tooting their own horn. If you're a true leader, you inspire others to toot horns for you. Such a man is Guy Baldwin.

That opening speech served as a preview of the dialogue that emanated from the many workshops for the rest of the weekend. The sessions ran the gamut from such basics as

how to write a press release, to more controversial issues, such as the pros and cons of what many regard as the motto (slogan, credo, mantra, or what have you) of the leather/SM community: the much-touted phrase, "Safe, Sane, Consensual" (SSC).

Clear definitions seemed elu-

sive. I would gladly have paid \$50 for a simple dictionary during that SSC workshop. The three words were dissected, debated, raked over the coals, looked at from multiple angles, re-defined, re-interpreted, and re-conceptualized. There was even a suggestion that SSC be changed to FRACK: "Functional, Reasonable, Aware, Consensual and Knowledgeable."

It will remain SSC for the foreseeable future.

Countless people are to be thanked for their leadership efforts in conjunction with LLC3, but most of the accolades must go to Peter Fiske of The 15 Association, Steve Koenig of the Janus Society, and John Weis of New York's GMSMA. It was Mr. Weis who initiated these conferences three

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 22

Alan Selby becomes a US citizen today, and there will be a celebration and "surprises" for him at The Edge, from 2000-2300, hosted by Gary Virginia and Donna Sachet.

Weekend April 23-25

American Leatherman, Leatherwoman and Leatherboy 1999 contests will take place in Washington, D.C., with most of the action at the Washington Plaza Hotel at Thomas Circle. Phone (800) 424-1140. Thanks Mercea Strecker and Ms. Terry Sapp (American Leatherwoman '98 and Leatherboy '98) for a great year. I'll be judging this one, so you know there will be photos next week!

In St. Louis, Mr. Missouri Leather will be staged by the Gateway MC, and Mike Ferguson, formerly of Our Town, passes the sash. For details, click on MrMOLeather@aol.com.

Friday, April 23

Tom of Finland dance party: "ManORama—Tom's Hunky Big Top." Includes a fashion show and sideshow attractions. Tix at Undercover, Mr. S, or call the hotline: 646-0930. Website: www.eroticarts.com.

Cigar Party at The Sling begins at 2200. For invite and location, call 292-3275 or click on their Web site: www.thesling.com.

Saturday, April 24

Men of Discipline-SF uniform night at The Loading Dock. I'll be in DC judging ABW, so I'll be celebrating with that group.

The 15 Association play party — you know the

rules and location. For invite, call 673-0452. BYOB. Your guests must arrive with you.

Travel fund benefit for Den Calkins and Marilyn to IML and IMsL at the Turf Club, with a mammoth crab feed at 1600. Only \$20 or \$25 with beer, auction and special games

Sunday, April 25

The 15 Association "Perverts in the Park" picnic. No details furnished at my deadline.

A Jito Presents "Aftershock" party, but no details furnished here either.

Monday, April 26

AIDS Emergency Fund annual dinner, with tickets \$100 each at the downtown Marriott. Several people you know will be honored.

Wednesday, April 28

Omar Moseley presents Mr. San Francisco Drummer contest at Daddy's. No details at my deadline. Also: Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison.

SF Leathernecks gathering. Topic: Whips! Whips! Whips! Call 437-0883 for invite and location.

Thursday, April 29

Mr. October 2000 bare chest calendar contest at the Powerhouse, at 2100. Win \$100, fame, adoration. Easy and fun way to be a volunteer.

Weekend, April 30 — May 2.

Mr. Pennsylvania Drummer & Drummer Boy at the Bike Stop in Philadelphia. More details next week. Utica Tri's MC in New York celebrate their 13th anniversary. Details next week.

Playgirls in Playtex

by Sweet Lips

Just when you thought there couldn't possibly be another drag show in town: The 1100 Club and Miss Carriage present "Play-Techs," the fun new drag show always with a special guest, the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month at 11 p.m., and the next show is Saturday, April 24. On those odd Saturdays at 10:30 p.m., join Tilly & the Pre-Madonna Show. It all takes place on that storied corner of Post and Polkstrasse.

Thank the starry heavens the crew at the Lone Star Saloon (aka "the BAR auxiliary office") has returned from their all-expenses-paid two-day vacation in Palm Springs, courtesy the management. "Man's man" manager Jerry Olsen said everyone had a ball, but he didn't specify which kind.

The rumors are true, Little Mikey is back on the plank of Re-

flections Bar on Polkstrasse and still bringing in a group of great guys.

The ever-popular Closet Ball under the direction of Emperor Steve Rasher and Stern will be hellzapoppin' on June 12 at the Gift Center Pavilion, 888 Brannan St. Doors open at 7 p.m., and show starts promptly at 8 p.m. Applications are now available, and tickets for tables, both by calling 290-2676. Remember, the tables sell out fast, so reserve early.

Cocktail Hour

Yes, that good-looking Daniel is still strutting his stuff at the popular Cinch Saloon and is attracting a bevy of beauties.

News flash: David Kapp and L. James will soon be back on the Polkstrasse with a bar called Club Rendezvous. David already has plans for remodeling, and Lips has heard that most of his staff will be rejoining him. Good luck, honey.

Dick watch: Dick Deemer is



Miss Carriage

again getting ready to go to the Pines on Fire Island for his annual five-month gig at the classic gay resort. I'm sure Ramon will miss you, Dickie. Later from "Labios dulces." ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

years ago in New York City.

For those of you looking ahead, LLC4 will take place in Washington, DC next year — the same weekend as the Millennium March on Washington. It should be a most interesting time in the capital!

Out on the town . . .

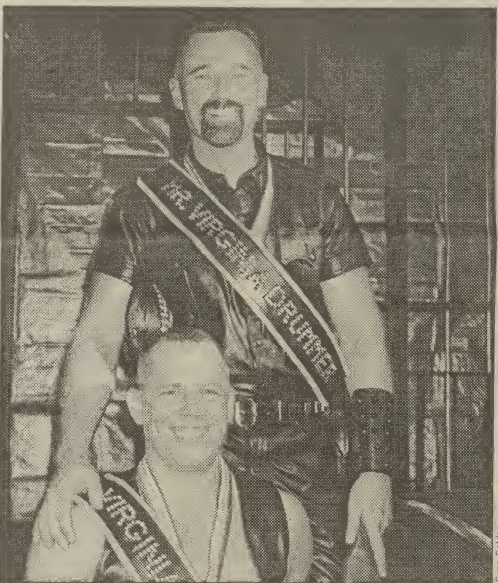
Delegates to the LLC3 conference were out and about all over San Francisco. Bars and businesses enjoyed hefty sales, and visitors partook of some of our finer local events.

On Thursday, April 15, nine men put themselves on display at the Powerhouse, trying for a spot on the Millennium Bare Chest calendar. Judges Dan Guida of San Diego, Sam Medrano of the Golden Gate Guards, Marvin Ross (Mr. December 1999), and SMMILE representative Joe Gallagher fired off questions at the contestants and put them through their paces.

During the event, the Bare Chest Chorus was in good form — as were their bare chests! And of course lots of agreeable nonsense took place.

When it was over, the study creature Marshall Miller took the September 2000 spot; Scott Snider was the runner-up. Mr. October 2000 will be chosen on Thursday, April 29 when the judges will be Gary Virginia, Joe Imbriani (Mr. October 1999) and former Mr. Northeast Drummer Will Clark, plus a SMMILE rep. Be there!

On Saturday, Mr. SF Leather Werner Tillinger celebrated his birthday with a jam-packed soiree



Mr. Virginia Drummer '99 Fraser Picard with Drummer Boy Kyle Taylor. The two were chosen on April 3 in Norfolk, Virginia.

at The Edge. He also sponsored a garage sale during the day, but still managed to appear at LLC3. The event raised some \$1,700.

On Sunday, the weather cooperated beautifully, the Leather Pride Contingent beerbust at Daddy's was big success, and all in all, it was a fine weekend to be gay in Faghdad by the Bay.

Ms. SF Leather?

Due to health reasons, Ray

Tilton has withdrawn his plan to produce the Ms. San Francisco Leather contest, which was scheduled for the early part of May.

Let's face it: with as many leather women as we have in this city, it would be downright shameful for us not to produce a woman to compete at International Ms. Leather.

Fortunately, Ms. Golden Gate Leather, Beth Downey, has picked up the gauntlet. She plans to stage a contest to send a woman to IMsL. The tentative date for the local competition is Friday, June 11 at a venue to be announced. Any and all women interested in competing (we can't have a contest without contestants!) should immediately call the hot line at (415) 227-6002, or email Downey at: MsSFLcint@aol.com. This is neither an applicant deadline nor a commitment to compete, but a survey to determine whether or not the contest will be produced. Volunteers are also needed. Do the right thing, right away. Let your feelings be known by April 25. ▼



Last weekend's Leather Leadership Conference speakers were (L to R) Willie Walker of GLHS, historian Gayle Rubin, and Alan Selby.

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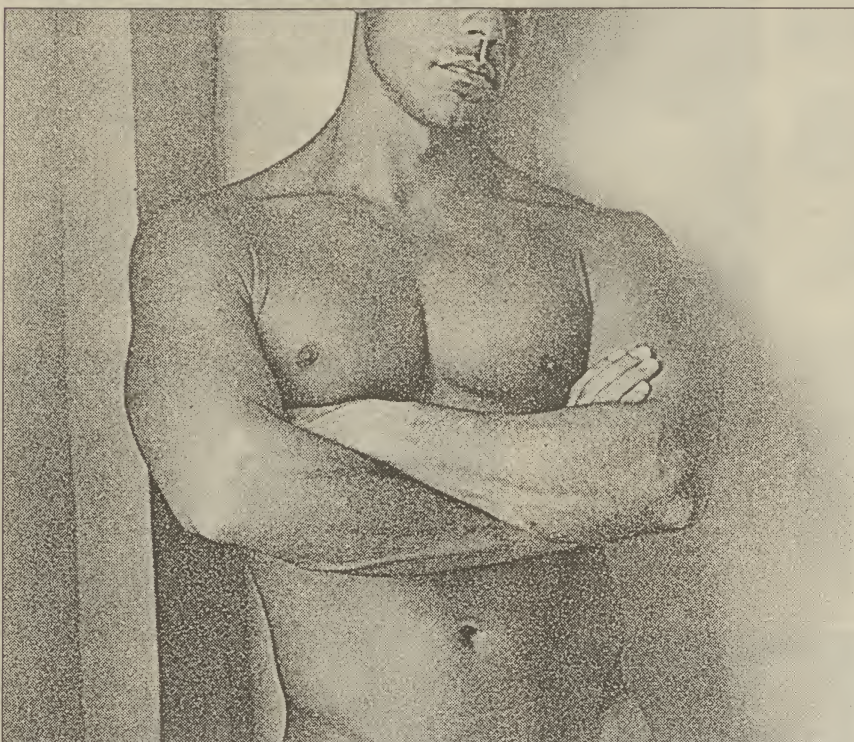
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PARTING GLANCES

Met At Steamworks 3/2 RM 235
You: Japanese, blond-tit-ring. Me: tall, muscular, mustache, would love to eat & fuck that ass some more. Call me. ☎ 7000

10 Naked Men
Sat. March 27, intermission. Me: tall with glasses by recycle bins. You: shorter, dark hair and beautiful eyes, white tee. We smiled and said hi, both seemed too shy about talking. Give a call, would like to meet you. ☎ 7001

Watergarden 9:30pm 4/2/99
You: David from San Raphael. Sexy & hairy Diddy! Leave telephone number. Had to leave to catch Cal Train. Will we meet again. ☎ 7100

Easter @ Blow Buddies
Hi, Mark, this is Bob. We exchanged names after I took care of your gorgeous Easter basket at the stalls. You: blond, blue-eyed he-man, Me: salt & pepper. Let's do it again. ☎ 7101

Peet's Coffee On Friday 3/26pm
We winked at each other on Friday night @ approx. 9:00pm. Both of us were with someone. I was sitting & you smiled & winked. Pls. call. ☎ 7107

Ballpark Express 4/3
Zane, we met on the bus after the Giants-A's game. I'd like to go to some Giants games with you. Please call! ☎ 7200

Scott You Answered My Ad
Entitled "Master seeks Slave", box # 6711, but you did not leave a complete phone number. Please call this box number would like to talk. ☎ 7103

Church & Clipper 4/5 8:45AM
I'm the Blonde in the Taupo Toyota Avalon who turned in front of you on Clipper. You rolled into the intersection to get my attention. You got it! Let's meet. ☎ 7202

Easter Sunday-Eagle About 5:30
You: good looking, clean shaven blonde with friend. Me: standing at bar, muscular, in tank top. Wasn't sure about your friend. Can we fix that? I'd like to meet you. ☎ 7102

Civic Center Bart-Friday 4/2
Fremont train, Bpm exchanged smiles; You: Asian, khakis shorts, reading "Candle in the Night". Me: earring, mustache, goatee, white jacket, NY mets cap, please call ☎ 7104

Looking 4 David At Feast
You pierced nose, just came back from 3 mo vacation. Missed your friends performance. Too busy with "our own show". Want some more of that. ☎ 7209

Pozole On April 1
I was an April Fool for reading my newspaper instead of noticing you. I left wondering how it could have been different. ☎ 7203

Sat. Apr 3 Webster St. 10am
You: lite blue jeans, leather jacket, walking large black dog. Me: cruised in mini-van, stopped. You walked by and smiled. Would love to meet and talk. ☎ 7109

Renegades
Kevin, I don't know you but I'm In Love with you. Would like more than just a hello, please help. Stephen. ☎ 7205

U, GLM, Me, GAM, 24Hr-Ftns@VanNess
Last year, you, 5'8"-ish, dark, sturdy, 30's approached me, 5'7", lean, 20's, at abdominal machine downstairs. I wasn't available then. You said, "Thank you very much" when left. Please respond. ☎ 7105

Jerry
We met at the Detour, Sunday, April 4. You live in Vallejo. Lawyer. My name is Larry. I live in SF, Paralegal. Would like to see you again. Have a drink, etc. ☎ 7208

Eureka At 22nd Street
Don- I used to see you each morning waiting for the 35 bus- when I walked my small dog. Miss seeing & talking to you- Coffee? Dinner? Mack ☎ 7210

Cala-Castro- Former Park Atndnt
I'm the guy w/ the old yellow Lincoln-you w/ baseball cap. I was too shy to ask you out. Now you're not there. Call me! You're cute. ☎ 7206

Steamworks 4/5
You East Bay originally from Spain. Me older, grey hair S.F. You came into my room, much fun, want more- what a kisser- have car. Will travel. Call. ☎ 7211

High Speed Cruising
We were both in our cars in Santa Clara driving to work. Nice smile! Want to connect up? ☎ 7108

Azteca Burritos 4/7 7:00
You: cute bearded bear eating alone. Me: cute goatee bear eating w/a friend. I only had the nerve to say hi. Call me, handsome. ☎ 7207

Elliott @ Church Seder 4/8
Thought you were both hot and handsome. We looked at each other diagonally across the table. Spoke briefly. Want to know you. ☎ 7204

Twice! Castro? .0. & Spike's 4/1
You: cute, blonde, glasses, picked up inf! parcel at P.O. Me: tall, dark, goatee standing in line. We: exchanged several looks & then at Spikes. We must meet. Coffee? ☎ 7106

Bob 4/3 10:30PM
Your so clean smell good. Did you enjoy your 8-day gift 4/8? I really like you. Pls call me Immy ABC ☎ 7201

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Mature GWM Seeks Younger Man
For intimate love-making sexual times. I'm young looking-acting, 75, 5'7", 165, sexual and romantic. You: are 18-40, gdlik'g and affectionate like me. Ltr? ☎ 7002

Attractive Latino
33yo goodlooking Latino 5'7", 150# goatee, professional looking for GWM between 27-40yo for friendship or more. I like going to movies, dinner, hiking. Go to dinner, call. ☎ 7003

Wanted Married Disc. Male
Satisfaction guaranteed by a discreet, prof. semi retired gentleman. East Bay only. No phones please. ☎ 7004

Seeking Asian Boyfriend
GWM, 35, 6'-185#, soft brown hair/ bright hazel eyes, caring, affectionate. ISO slim/trim, in-shape, smooth, clean-shaven Asian or Asian-American with nice qualities. ☎ 7005

European 56 years 5'11"
32" waist. New in SF, seeks friend. Black or Hispanic. Love to kiss etc. Pls call. ☎ 7006

Tall, Dark, Handsome Cancer
HIV+, GWM, 40ish, sexy, 6'3", 185#, goatee, well-educated. Former New Yorker seeks blond or sandy hair taurus, cancer, scorio, 30-40. Interests: art, lit, theatre for ltr. ☎ 7007

Clark Kent Adman From N.Y.
Assertive, affectionate, articulate, warm, witty, youthful GWM soulmate/sexmate, 40, 6'1", 178# brnyr, HIV-. We will kiss on balcony, in heated pool & elevator. Midway between gay adolescence and elder statesmanship. ☎ 7998

Gay Asian Male Seeking
Other sincere and caring guys (GAMs & GWMs) for dating and possible ltr. Me: 30's, 5'7", 150lbs, professional, responsible, goodlooking, HIV-. Let's talk & meet. ☎ 7009

Quality LTR Oriented GAM ISO
Other professional, sincere honest and caring men for quality time and hopefully a nurturing long term relationship. 30's, 5'8", 145lbs. ☎ 7010

Handsome Blackman ISO Cute GWM
I'm 26 5'10" masculine, handsome, gym fit body, ambitious, professional. You: 22-35 clean-shaven muscular or medium build ambitious professional for affectionate relation, kissing ok sex must wait. ☎ 7012

Daddy Bear 54-6-5 290 Gray/Blu
I want a buddy/brother/sister 18-40 or so. You might share my interests in gardens & gauguin, beaches & blowjobs, football & furniture. Mayback & movies. You might not. S 7013

Seeking Indian Gay Man
GWM, 53, 5'8", 175, bm/bl, beard, HIV+ with growing interest and fascination with the customs and people of the sub-continent, seeks relationship with gay indian man. ☎ 7111

Asian/ Pi Top Cutie
Massage my back; ride my firm butt. Attractive W/M, 48, safe, neg, discreet. ☎ 7112

Looking For Something Good
Handsome black muscular Berkeley bottom bald, stache, goatee, 5'11", 23 160 passionate top for companionship and good sex pluses facial hair, cowboy boots, light alcohol aroma ok. ☎ 7113

Asian Doll For House Boy
42yr. old looking for Asian boy to play with on a regular basis. No strings attached and discreet. ☎ 7011

GWM Seeks Man Of Color
GWM, 44, blonde, bottom, HIV+ seeks friend for sex, friendship, possible LTR. Like the outdoors, theatre. Seeking warm caring individual, any age. ☎ 7218

HIV+ East Bay Top Wanted
Capricorn, Cancer, Virgo, black hair, brown eyes, any race-HIV+ Pittsburgh Taurus, 37 blonde, blue, 6 foot, 185- Looking for Suburban loving boyfriend to snuggle with and playhouse with. ☎ 7219

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, seeks another HIV Negative extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 7223

Lonely & Not
GWM, 46, seeking GWM, 30-40 HIV-, nonsmoker, cut, bottom. Just be nice. SF only. ☎ 7221

Seeking Soulmate
British poet, playwright, teacher. I'm 50, 5'9", slim, hairy bearded, uncut, romantic, very loyal. Love all arts including cooking. You are... whoever you are, but please be in shape. ☎ 7117

Boyfriend Search
G8M, 41, 5'10", smooth and trim, healthy, athletic romantic, military professional likes sporting and cultural events, seeks indoor intimacy and LTR. ☎ 7118

Man Hunt
Wanted- one GWM bottom over 45yrs old no exceptions. G8M to 50, 5'9" uncut with solid stocky build, HIV- seeks relationship and monogamy with fun, honest, horny guy in S.F. ☎ 7119

Grandson Wanted
18-32, trim, submissive, spankable, HIV- looking for someone to tend to my house, my properties, and me. I will take good care of you. ☎ 7120

Husband-Hunting Via Personals?
Pub-leez! Yet why not? You: Sweet. Slim-ish (not fat). Sexy, smart, loving. Good lay! Me: great cocksucker (to lure you back for me to practice matrimonial wiles). Eternal bliss awaits! ☎ 7212

Trip To Monterey Bay
Distinguished Architect, GWM 5'9" 155#, slim muscular build, 40's HIV-, interested in healthy living, personal growth, enjoys music, pets, quiet home. Seeking GM any race, 25-35, slim, no drugs or smoke, for LTR. ☎ 7213

Seeking Asian
Good-looking WM, 38, professional, intelligent, sophisticated, masculine, in-shape, sincere, caring, affectionate, loyal seeks one special Asian under 35 and in-shape, for shared togetherness and endless romantic possibilities. ☎ 7214

Slim Gdlik'g Hip Retired Guy
Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in good shape, versatile, HIV-, seeks similar slim, 50+, facial hair guy. Short, small dick OK. Safe Only! ☎ 7215

Chess, Checkers or Cards
(HIV+) Nice looking WM, 40's, non-smoker, ISO same. I'm looking mainly for friendship and support in Santa Rosa. ☎ 7216

Asian Men Tops
If you are a top, I'm a bottom for you-LTR, I'm GWM 165lbs. You won't be disappointed. I'm open for you anytime. Yours. ☎ 7217

GLM Bottom Seeks Older Top
Puerto Rican 38, bottom 5'9" 158# brown eyes, seeking older top hairy and heavy pluses, but I'm open. ☎ 7220

Soulmate Sought
GAM, 49, 5'10", 155, HIV-, attractive looking for SGWM to share life with. ☎ 7110

You Love Rivers
Surf, mountains, stars, storms; You're wild, curious, elemental, passionate, very lean, defined, with good ass, under 40. Your heart's open to discovery, laughter, tears, loving a soulmate. ☎ 7222

Seek Boyfriend
Boysish GWM 30, Navy brd. 5'7", athletic, enjoys movies, cuddling, dancing, intimacy, romance, current events, dining, hiking, seeks guy to connect for LTR. ☎ 7116

Black 47
My body one skin tone smooth, sensual, chest 43", big swollen nipples, love being sucked, hard legs, and big round butt. You 18-20 firmers Blacks, Latinos, Asians only. ☎ 7114

East Bay
6'2", 230lbs 60yo/o. I need big cut cocks anyway you want to give it. Naked men with nice feet also a turn on. No coddling please. ☎ 7115

Positive Mediator
GWM, 5'9", 165lbs, dark Irish vers. Bottom young 40's, smart, fit, sane, wants in-shape top guy, w/ spiritual side, taller, to date, and LTR. ☎ 7224

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Sit On My Face
Well built top, hung big needs, well built WM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 7014

Attn: Bi-Straight Asian Men
Let me give you a deep hot massage, and a hot tung bath between your groins and armpits. I'm strong, muscular and aim to please. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 7015

Handsome Top Wants Some Butt!
Or nice soft mouth for pumping. I am in shape, blond, nice butt and have 8 uncut inches. For friendly fun bottoms. ☎ 7017

Beer Can Dick??
Down to earth tall GWM 50's HIV- top/oralist non-gym looking for male with average cut fat cock for oral appreciation. Pumpers ok. ☎ 7019

Just Shut-Up And Ride
WM, 34, 5'10" 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk-48" ch 32" w 18" arms- wants good looking masculine men to get pumped or pump me. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 7122

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Top Seeks Asian Ass

Let my tongue, big cock taste and please your butt. GWM 35 good body, good looks. Try me. ☎ 7027

Virile Alpha Male ISO Big Btm
4 weekend wallows. Hairy 6'10" WM, got, shaved head. Cut castron cock in full bush of musky br public hair. Cumhungry eager instat a must. Short, hairy +. Tatts, rings, ranch a+++. Travel req 4 ltr. Woof! Heel. Do it! S 7019

You Are 40-60

I love sucking cock & have my tight hole played with. GWM HIV- 58 short & slim. Also love being fucked bent over, or j/o. Aroma ok. ☎ 7020

Raunch Buddy: Masculine

Guy looking to blow some dirty butt: Prefer big bear types, for hot, dirty man to man action. ☎ 7021

Black Bottom Seeks Top

Dominant top verbal, ranch, kink, sleaze, a plus. Available eve & some weekends. ☎ 7022

Muscle Studs Eat My Big Dick
Or get plowed by sexy dad, 55, 6'1", 170. I'll worship your bulging biceps while you deep throat my 9" meat. Muscle guys only please. ☎ 7023

On My Knees Sucking Your Dick
If you enjoy getting your big dick sucked as much as I enjoy doing it call. Latino and black cock pref. I'm 45. I brown hair, green eyes, 5'8", heavy. ☎ 7024

Bittersweet Dark Chocolate
BM, HIV-, attractive bear ISO WM/LM to indulge our senses - suck/tick nipples, toes, cocks, etc. To taste your skin and fuck your body completely. ☎ 7025

I'm Feeling Kinda Bad Cause Of
Something sad, if you wanta help me out, give me a shout. I need a guy who's cute who'll make me lick his boot, in sum, I need to cum. ☎ 7028

Cocksucker Takes It
Hot lips, tongue sucks u, cut WM w/big thick cock n balls kick back for complete satisfaction. Any age if big n hard. ☎ 7029

East European Or Russian Men
Trim, HIV-, under 50, 7" wanted for oral sex, no reciprocation necessary. I am a guy in my 50's, 5'10" 150# dark brown hair, somewhat shy. ☎ 7031

Policemen, Firemen or Military
I want to service you on a regular basis, seeking men who are hot and in good shape. I'm WM, 57, 5'11", 168lb. Just lay back and enjoy! Call now! ☎ 7126

34yrs Tall 175 Brown Eyes ISO
Straight men only who enjoy burning their thick meat into my white hairless bubble-butt. Firm huge balls A+. Black men and 8in+ wet. Martinez call me and tease me to the max! ☎ 7026

Butt Munch

Let us explore the art of rimming your butt my face or vice versa. If you like GWM seeks other GWM for fun times. ☎ 7123

Looking To Get Mounted
Old yellow arewou out there? If you can help this handsome, 6'2", 30yo. Please call, I'm for real, you be to. ☎ 7016

Treat You Like A Woman In Bed?
Dominant, affectionate black male, 41, 5'10", 175, masculine, muscular, discreet, conservative, straight appearing seeks masculine, muscular, conservative, straight appearing white male to give me some pussy and service my dick. ☎ 7128

Asian Seeks Hot Playmates
30s, 5'8", 140lb, smooth, cute ass, passionate into hot and sexy lovemaking. You: cute, under 40, in-shape HIV neg. No disease. Most importantly-HORNY! ☎ 7032

Do You Like 'Em Big And Tall?
Young 47 GWM, 6'4", 245#, b/nbl, 6" uncult bottom man ISO average to tall, uncult top men. Age/race unimportant, personality is. Hairy A+, buddies wanted. ☎ 7129

Submissive Muscular Bottom
Goodlooking GWM, 31 185lbs, 5'11" seeks white tops with 8+ who love to fuck and get sucked. Age 20-40. ☎ 7030

Mellow Mouth 4 Manly Men
Friendly type with subtle technique will help you unload. I'm 47, slender, short beard, seek well hung face fucker, my place, car helpful. Be 35-50, trim, together, Black/White. ☎ 7121

Blue-Collar Weekend Sex Buddy
Me: HIV+ 34yrs, 5'11" 190lbs tall smooth bottom boy, br eyes & hair, clean shaven, men 35-40 wet kisses A++ hairy chest & body A+ average shape, no att-no head games. ☎ 7124

Discreet Handsome Bi-WM
Seek very discreet professional bi-WM, 25-45, to receive oral service weekdays. Uniforms, shirt and tie A+, must be fit, cut 7"+. Like glory holes! San Mateo. ☎ 7130

Daddy Likes Boy Butt
Handsome 50yo gay man stud, 6', 175, sdp, beard HIV+, seeks pussy boy with slim to muscular build for casual safe sex. You have flat stomach, round butt. ☎ 7125

Cock Worshiper Wanted
Hot, hung stud, early 30's, seeks dudes who know how to service a big hard dick. I want cock connoisseurs who can appreciate my beautiful piece. ☎ 7127

Erotic Massage
Straight-looking fit WM 41 uses his hands and mouth to give a free hour massage for very masculine guys 18 to 42 with size 28 to 32 waistlines. ☎ 7234

Wanted: Body Electrics
42 sensual 6'4" 175 Gm seeks B.E. Techs to show me how. ☎ 7235

Straight Needs Cock Jerked-Off
Masculine, mature, WM seeking mature male to massage my lower back and butt, followed by slow sensual climaxing cock massage. Let me watch you j/o on my face afterwards. ☎ 7227

East Bay Dad Seeks Bondage Boy
20-30's interests/experience in sm/dom/submissive scenes. Boy needs to learn from older experienced mentor, 47, through on-going sessions. ☎ 7225

Hot GW Top Seeks Asian Ass
To lick & to fuck. Good dick, body, looks & great sex. Try me. No strings. Must be under 40, smooth, slim, HIV- Weekday afternoons in S.F. ☎ 7226

I've Got 8 Uncult Thick Inches!
For young friendly bottoms looking for fun. I am a handsome inshape blonde 38yr. old top who wants to play with you. ☎ 7228

Handsome Top Wants Some Butt!
Or nice soft mouth for pumping. I am inshape blond, nice butt and have 8 uncult inches. For friendly fun bottoms. ☎ 7229

Midwestern GWM Seeks GAM 21-35
GWM, 28, 6'1", 180lb. hairy chest, top seeks GAM 21-35, boyish, smooth, trim for soft kisses & HARD embraces. Students a plus. ☎ 7230

Big Dick Big Balls
Are yours to suck if you're well-built & under 40. Me: 55, tall & slim. Cum & get it! ☎ 7231

Hot WM Seeks Asian Bottom
Young, hung, HIV-, WM top stud seeks slim smooth Asian bottoms to rim & fuck. Available weekdays afternoons in S.F. ☎ 7233

Hung Tops Wanted
By confirmed bottom who knows what being a bottom is all about. GWM, 155lb., 45yo HIV+. ☎ 7236

Masculine Bottom
Seeking experienced, insatiable topman for ongoing playing sessions A+ your S.F. place. I am well built, goodlooking WM, age 32. ☎ 7237

Uncult 33yr Old Asian
You, GWM under 42. Me: 57 1/2", 150lb seeks goodlooking GWM for friendship or more. ☎ 7243

Regular Guys
Apply here. Seeking "unaffected" regular types for sex. You should be late 30's-40's tall a plus, shy ok, for ongoing sexual pleasures. Top a plus. ☎ 7238

Big Dicks N Mirrors
For guys who like to watch. Handsome muscular Italian 8 1/2 top to bottom seeks in shape guys for hot fucking n sucking. ☎ 7240

Looking 4 Tops W Big Tool
Goodlooking muscular Latin man looking for muscular top men with big cock for "au natural" fun. Me: Pos 32 muscular tattoos pierced. You similar 8 1/2 or more masculine. ☎ 7239

Springtime Adventure
Horny GWM, 40's, Italian, toman, 5'11", 190#, hairy, hung nice. Sks hairy bim, GWM 40's, also in LTR, who needs more attention. Flexible schedule. SF only. ☎ 7241

Head For Sonoma County
If you are 18-35 and slender or medium build, great head and rimming await you. Me: middle-aged, nice looking, healthy, fun, generous. Daytimes only, anyday. ☎ 7242

SouthBay Black Cock Craver
Squeaky clean smooth, tan, toned, straight Italian, Iris, & Indian guy seeks hung hot black studs. 2 at once would be perfect. I'm goodlooking & willing to pay for it. ☎ 7244

Slave Seeks Master
Experienced leather slave, seeks to meet and serve Master Sadist in his dungeon or "playspace". Desires bondage & discipline from an experienced Top Man. Slave is 43yo, 5'11", beard, hairy, goodlooking, football player build (work out daily), drug free. ☎ 7232

Driving Naked And Erect
Nude drivers and exhibitionists seek off in cars. Bare ass naked stroking an erect cock. Road rage with a hard-on. Nude carpool forming. Naked passengers welcome. ☎ 7245

FETISHES

Wanna Be Dog Owner
ISO yng. dog to train by yng. GWM. gdlg. Be submissive, fun, detail-oriented, like mood sirius focus, beck & call, cute & healthy. ☎ 7033

Piss! Piss! Piss!
Extremely horny senior 70, 6' 170# 7" uncult ISO heavy piss buddies any age size or color. Bears a plus! ☎ 7035

Your Feet My Face
Goodlooking, masculine guy wants to worship your feet with my hands and mouth, kick back while I make you and your feet feel good. Curious? All welcome. ☎ 7135

Like To Eat Your Own ...?
Let me watch you throw your legs back while you jack a load. I'll do the same. Hot talk, big-cocks, self-suckers, exhibitionists, a plus. ☎ 7036

Top Seeks Friendly Rimmers
Handsome uncult, hairy chest, in-shape well hung top with a bubble butt wants some tongue action for fun and friendly rimmers. Let do it. ☎ 7037

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 7038

Butt Play
Masculine 33, 5'9", 155, 9" with P.A. loves laying on a sling and have my butt played with toys, dildos, f.i, lather, kink. ☎ 7039

Black Top
Kinky GWM lean smooth big nips hot ass ISO dominant big dick black top/daddy/master into extended fucking, service, nipple play w/s b/d. ☎ 7040

Master 40's, Experienced
Looking for whipping boy/bondage slave-eager to please, and serve. Subject-20-38 with some training and the real drive to belong. Subjects body to be dedicated to the satisfaction of its master, limits respected but expanded over time. ☎ 7041

Breeches
GWM, 44, 5'9", 185lb, crew cut, hairy, hung, verbal, love wearing police uniforms, particularly leather breeches. Seeking uniformed sex buddy for horny times. ☎ 7131

Boot licker! Piss Drinker!
Mature cock sucker with respectful attitude wants to service well-endowed men who know what they want! ☎ 7132

Throat Open At 5:30 am?
Middle-age but hung Oakland man needs a traveling deep throat expert to drain my 5:30am hard on. All races, body types welcome. No beepers, beards. ☎ 7133

Silicon Valley Spanking Fun!
Cute/handsome WM, young 42, 5'9" 205 with a round sparkable butt bends over for young or old and gives it good to "Bad Boys" 18-30. ☎ 7134

What's The Buzz?
Middle-age but hung Oakland wants to make you smooth! Ready to lose that stache/beard? Love to take it off for you! Bodies, balls, crotch too! All ages/types. ☎ 7136

Nasty Raunchy Pigs Wanted
Skins, gutter punks, party boys great, sweaty, unwashed bodies and clothing appreciated. Cum share your body tastes and smells. ☎ 7137

Cum on Me
GWM 45, 6'1" 200lbs, wants one or more to cum on me Let me suck or watch you j/o, then shoot your load on me. ☎ 7249

Great Butt Service
For younger guys who like to show off their hole and get it sniffed and eaten out by a hot, masculine guy. ☎ 7138

Feet! Fun! And Friendship!
Lifelong attraction to men's barefeet. Grave mutual barefoot kissing, licking, smelling, caressing, toe wrestling. Roles, fantasies, j/o. E.B sensual GWM w/tee ring, 5'9", trim, tan, hairy, HIV- loves barefoot! ☎ 7250

Submissive Wanted
Sophisticated muscular dominant. ISO to gether submissive for collared, psychological training cbl etc. Contract possible. Not into some scene. Serious only. ☎ 7251

Top Seeks Friendly Rimmers
Handsome uncult, hairy chest, in-shape well hung top with a bubble butt want some tongue action for fun and friendly rimmers. Let do it. ☎ 7246

Hot And Horny
WM 38, 5'10", 160# Redhead, 7" uncult. Looking for guys into watersports, butt play, and other aspects of kink. ☎ 7247

Top-Team Partner Needed
Fairy muscled wrestler/boxer, 5'8", 140lb. ISO buddy/partner for frequent workouts, NHB fights, boxing. You: under 200#, into weights, leather, s&m, boots, sweat, fists and more. ☎ 7248

Asian Fetish, Feet, Uncult Cock
Beautiful Asian in Kimono, smooth, slim, uncult 8", seeks experienced master to give boy intrusive exam, instruments, cock torment, then give prolonged oral to geisha house boy's cock and leg/tees. ☎ 7034

Novice Needs Training
From basic in-shape white masters 35 and under. Me: Asian, 30, 5'9", 160, botom, HIV- tatts, into ws, it, dildos, restraints, floggings. ☎ 7252

COUPLES

Threeways Or Groups
Sexy, GWM, 56, 6'1", 175 wants to join a hot group or couples for steamy sex scenes. I'm fr ap and br/a. Hung big. Call, maybe we can put a group together. ☎ 7253

OTHER

Self-Suck! Auto-Fellatio!
Self-suckers' showoff meetings; small groups. Can give tips, techniques; help going down. Optional gifts; video of you and other hot self-suckers, limbering bodywork, steam bath, electric massagers. ☎ 7142

Swing Daddy
Really! Let's dance! Fit, fun 45yo prof GWM (lead) seeking younger GM (follow) to West Coast swing, two-step, waltz, etc. Some experience necessary but the package includes weekly lessons by prof dance teacher. Prefer medium to slight build guy mid 20s to 30s. Call ad for info. ☎ 7139

Canadian (East European).
31, average looks, rather lonely, sincere and compassionate, would like to learn more about California. ☎ 7140

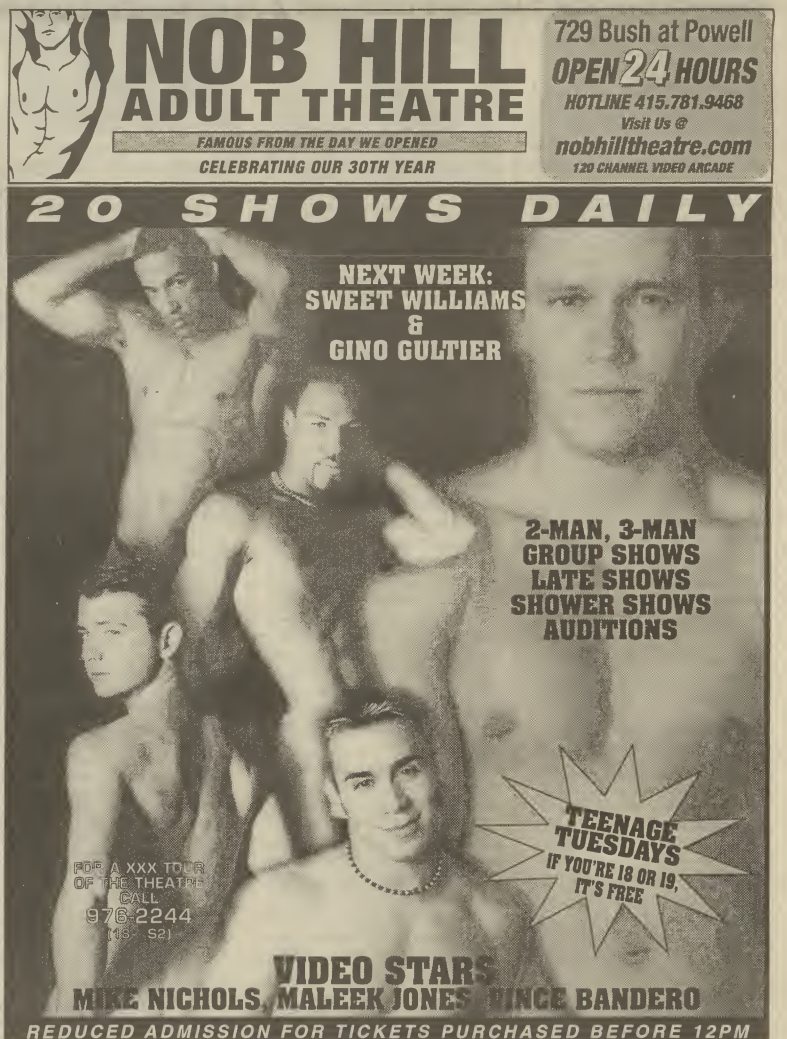


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Drama at the GLAMAs

3rd Annual Gay and Lesbian Music Awards

by Gregg Shapiro

This is just like a scene from a fucking movie." Truer words were never spoken than those uttered by Sandra Bernhard, making her way through the balcony, upon learning that she had lost her second of two GLAMA (Gay and Lesbian American Music Award) nominations at the third annual GLAMA ceremonies held at the Manhattan Center in New York City on Monday, April 12. Bernhard was nominated, and deservedly so, in both the Cast Recording and Comedy categories for the tracks "Nightingale" and "Fabulous Trip To Morocco" from her album (and stage show of the same name), *I'm Still Here... Damn It!*

There was, of course, no doubt that Bernhard was still here, especially when she took the stage to perform "Nightingale," accompanied on piano by Mitch Kaplan. Bernhard's performance was one of a handful of solid live performances during the course of the evening. Other live performance high points included Steven Kowalczyk's (who actually made jazz sexy, something the evening's master of ceremonies and Comedy GLAMA nominee Karen Williams didn't think was possible) riveting performance of his nominated song "Mother of Mothers" (from the *Fruit Cocktail* compilation); Candy Kane (also a nominee in the jazz category), accompanied on keyboards by Sue Palmer, performing her sticky cover of "Candy" that was sweet to the ears; Barnes (a multi-category nominee whose one win was an unexpected one in the Dance Music category), tearing up the stage (accompanied by his manager Paul V. scratching on turntables) with his song "Boy With A Secret"; two-time nominee Mark Weigle (who began his performance by reading from an Armistead Maupin novel); and Album Of The Year nominee Melissa Ferrick (who performed the infectious title track from her nominated disc *Everything I Need*).

As for the "fucking movie" atmosphere of the evening, it could be attributed to the fact that there was definitely a whiff of drama in the air. Controversy could be found in a few categories, particularly the Female Artist category. In addition to nominee Veronika Klaus (a San Francisco-based male-to-female transsexual), there was the recently married (to a man) Ani DiFranco, who was also receiving the OUTMUSIC Award. All controversy dissolved when the wonderful SONIA won for her album *Almost Chocolate*.

In accepting her OUTMUSIC Award ("given to a recording artist, group or songwriter who has advanced gay/lesbian music through their work as an out musician"), DiFranco addressed her detractors in a compelling and powerful speech. Near tears at one point, DiFranco clearly had a profound effect on the audience.

By George

George Michael's GLAMA nominations also created contro-



George Michael

versy in some camps, because it was thought that his coming out was done under fire and not from his personal and creative evolution. Whatever! The fact remains that he was able to score nominations in three categories. Vaughan Arnell, who directed the video for "Outside," received the Video GLAMA, and Michael won one of his remaining two nominations in the Pop category. The GLAMA for the other category in which he was nominated, Male Artist of the Year, was one of the evening's stunning upsets, going to John Boswell. Elizabeth Ziff of BETTY accepted the award on Boswell's behalf, saying that he told her to tell everyone that he is "a really big fag," and then proceeding to give out what she said was his home phone number in Los Angeles.

Other upsets and surprises occurred in the Band/Duo/Group category, where Paxton (a "straight" forward rock band) got the GLAMA; the Pop Instrumental award went to Teresa Trull & Barbara Higbie (for the title track of their *Playtime* disc); Rick Jensen, in his acceptance speech for the Cabaret Category, acknowledged the loss of two nominees (Michael Callen and Keith Christopher), and thanked his friend, the late Nancy Lamott; Chicago's Windy City Performing Arts offshoot Unison Lesbian & Gay Singers won for their version of "Jingle Bells" (from their holiday disc *Glad Tidings We Bring*); and The Klezmatics triumphed in the Acoustic/Folk category for "Ovnt Lid" from *The Well*. In accepting their GLAMA, Alicia Svigals of The Klezmatics said, "Wow, we are so surprised. Queer Yiddishists never get awards." She also thanked the band's record label, Xenophile, for "being homophile."

Two of the last three awards of the evening, in the Debut Artist and Rock/Alternative categories, went pretty much as expected. The winners, Rufus Wainwright and Bob Mould, respectively, were almost sure things in those categories. Mould, who is no longer performing live, was thrilled at winning the GLAMA, and is currently at work on some new songs. The Album of the Year category held perhaps the biggest surprise of the evening. Recently dropped from her contract with major label Mercury (a result of the recent messy megamerger with Universal), Laura Love now has GLAMA to help ease the pain. Perhaps it will help her in getting signed to another record label so that we can get a chance to hear the follow-up to her GLAMA-winning *Shum Ticky*. ▼

PERSONALS

BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

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photography by greg bruce

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\$40 sensual nude mass 6' 195#
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\$35 before 1pm, \$40 after nude
muscular 6' 195# Playful 387-9451

PERSONALS

MASSAGE

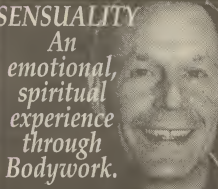
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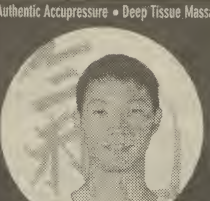
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Larry 252-9597

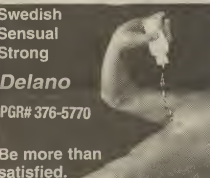
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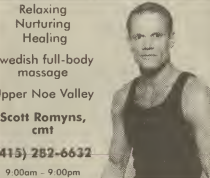
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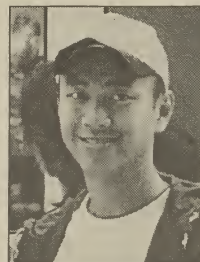
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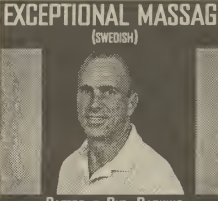
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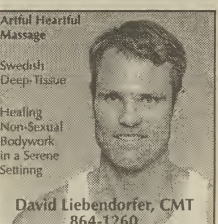
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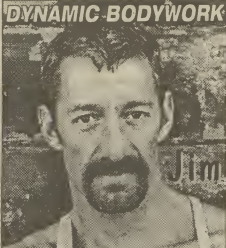
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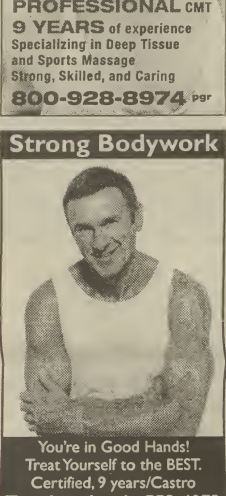
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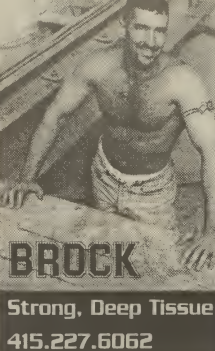
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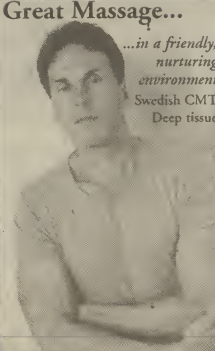
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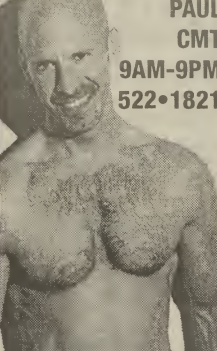
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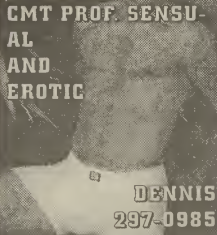
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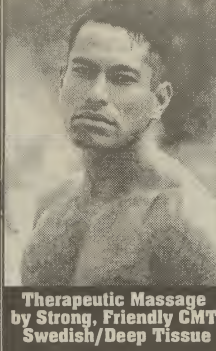
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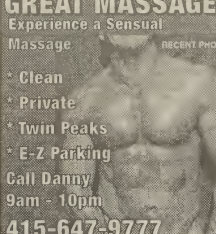
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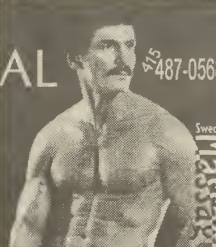
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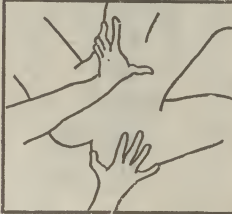
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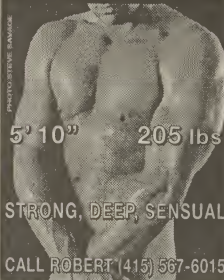


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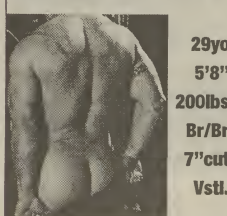
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5'10" brn/brn 165# goatie 30yrs Leather toys ff most scenes "24HRS ALWAYS HORNY"

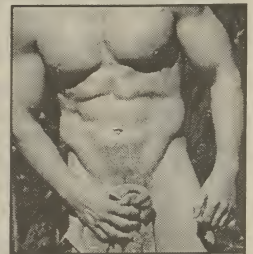
Jeff In/out 415 377-8779

Ready And Willing

WILL FILL YOU UP.
VIDEO/MAG MODEL.
5'10" 165# 9" CUT.
IN/OUT \$100/120.

865-0144

TOP

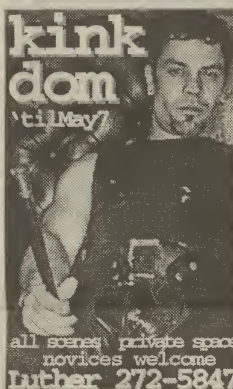


978-NUDE
HANDSOME, CLEAN-CUT, 36YO TOP
HOT. FRIENDLY. 5'7", 155#. IN/OUT \$150



ITALIAN BODYBUILDER

560-4141



kink dom
all scenes private space
novices welcome
luther 272-5847

AUTOFELLATIO & MORE

81/2 uncut 25yr 6ft. 170# tats shaved head uninhibited \$100 out 245-3629

Sexy, playful, muscular top. I'm 29

with a hard, defined gymnast's body; broad shoulders, great chest, popping biceps, handsome face, 8 hard inches offering hot, sensual, intimate times.

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Uninhibited versatile with aim to please 5'11" 170# 32" w most scenes-bondage, ff, toys and more Just ask Ron 415-790-6314

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Tall, dark, handsome Asian guy 27yo 6' 180# \$100 Derek 408-920-2145

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6'150lbs, Thick jet-black hair. Long eyelashes, defined, lean, toned chest, beautiful sexy yummy ass. Twin mounds of pleasure!

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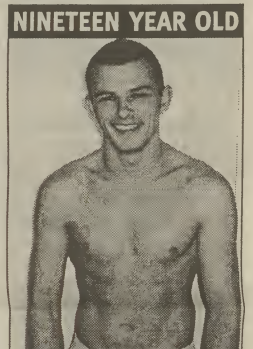
BIG BLACK HUNG TOP

Musclcd, masculine & handsome 28, 6', 185lbs, 9.5x6 cut Nate 415-377-4684

24 hours, out only \$150

PORN STAR!!

26yo slender but muscular build pecs & fantastic butt! Into vanilla, s&m, massage, bondage, very affectionate & cuddly! Travel In/out 24hrs. Nathan 505-8256



NINETEEN YEAR OLD

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Cell# 510-407-9748

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Wnts Svc 6'1", 235#, Allmsd, Hry

Vry Hot, 8x7 Holeover, Page313-9946

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Feet back and spread!

Musculine, defined, 6'2", 190

hairy, buzzcut, versatile.

All scenes. 415.235-8944

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Muscular man 925-689-6076

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Super cute! Athletic & tall. 32 6' 1 1/2", 200lbs. Very clean into safe fun. \$100 Steve 709-1602

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Handsome, green eyed 22 y/o

Sexy & affectionate- a great

Kisser! Travis 790-6830. Out.

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Musc Hung Submissive Pg313-9946

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SIZE 12 FEET -HOT- TOP
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Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs

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Horny Stud. Open to all fantasies.

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Hard raw tight long thick, juicy stud
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musculine, cleancut athletic build.
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Solid muscular pecs, abs, & legs.
Deep throat and young jock ass.
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Light To Heavy Sensual S/M
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Kicks back for service *24 Hours

10X6" UNCUT

Big fat tool 487-1679 Pgr678-1005

24yo Frat boy Hunk

Solid muscular pecs, abs, & legs.

Deep throat and young jock ass.

5'9", 155#s, 30" w, 8" ct 739-7312

LEATHER TOP!

Handsome, Expert Master

Light To Heavy Sensual S/M

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Big fat tool 487-1679 Pgr678-1005

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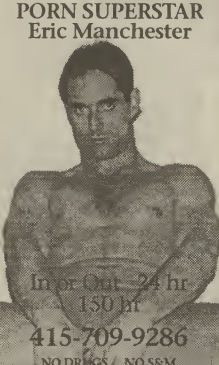


20 YEARS OLD

Blond 5'10", 150 lbs

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In or Out 24 hr

150 lb

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MACK

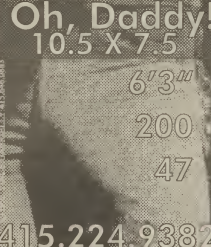
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Kevin

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Oh, Daddy!

10.5 X 7.5

6'3"

200

47

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Lean, smooth leather top, 32, gives it like you need it.

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Blond blue bottom boy 4 play 5ft 7" 135lb Nice athletic build wild to mild. Home or hotel fun open minded call day or night. In/out hotel ok Barry 245 7616

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TOP ONLY. OUT ONLY

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Bondage, SM, WS, CBT, F/F, Fetish, Slave Training.

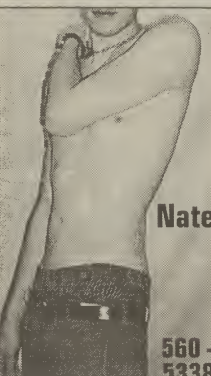
39yo, 6'1", 195#, Brown Hair, flat top, Blue Eyes, mustache, 7" Uncut.

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Have equipment and playspace.

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Nate

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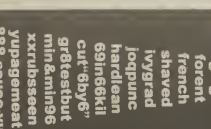
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Masculine cleancut friendly

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32yo, 5'10", 165#, brn/blu, 8" Big hairy pecs, hard abs

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knows how to deliver 792-0186

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25 bld bu 6'2" 190 8x6 very oral

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vanilla to wild: ff ws toys


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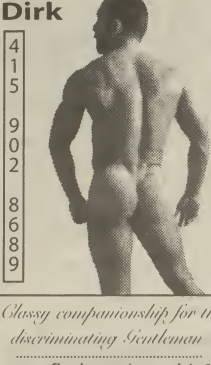
Tattooed shaved head piercings

25yr 6ft. 170# kinky 8 1/2 uncut

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5'8" 170 8 thk 888 436 5073 24hr.




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TAKING HIS TIME, TALL &
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100%GUARANTEED!
9.5 CUT VERY THICK!!!
Sensual cleancut hot & sexy stud!!
Tan w/nice fit toned body!
Outgoing, real, love new ideas & very
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5'9" 180 very muscular
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6'5" 220# masc muscular 36yo

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10.5 thick cut hungry tool

EXTREMELY SEXY

Beautiful sm body firm jock ass

24 hour SF only out only

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8X6" HOT THICK

BLACK POLE

VGL muscular man, hot top.

Call me 925-312-1109 \$130 out.

Hot blk stud

20yr 81/2 707-2633 Jarvis

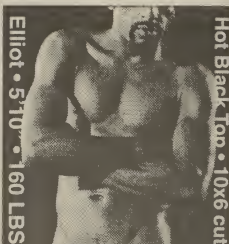
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Masculine aggressive sexy rough

versatile Jewish bottom boy

8 THICK INCHES

5'10" brn/brn 165# stache & gte

34yrs lean body mod hairy chest

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24HRS ALWAYS HORNY

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22,6', 170#, 8", br/bl, smooth body

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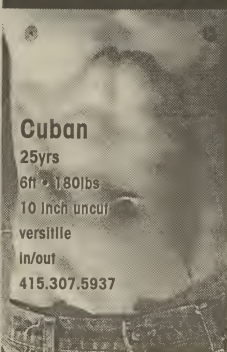
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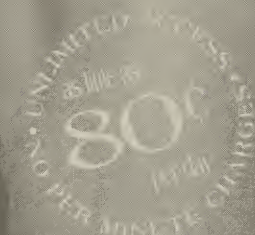
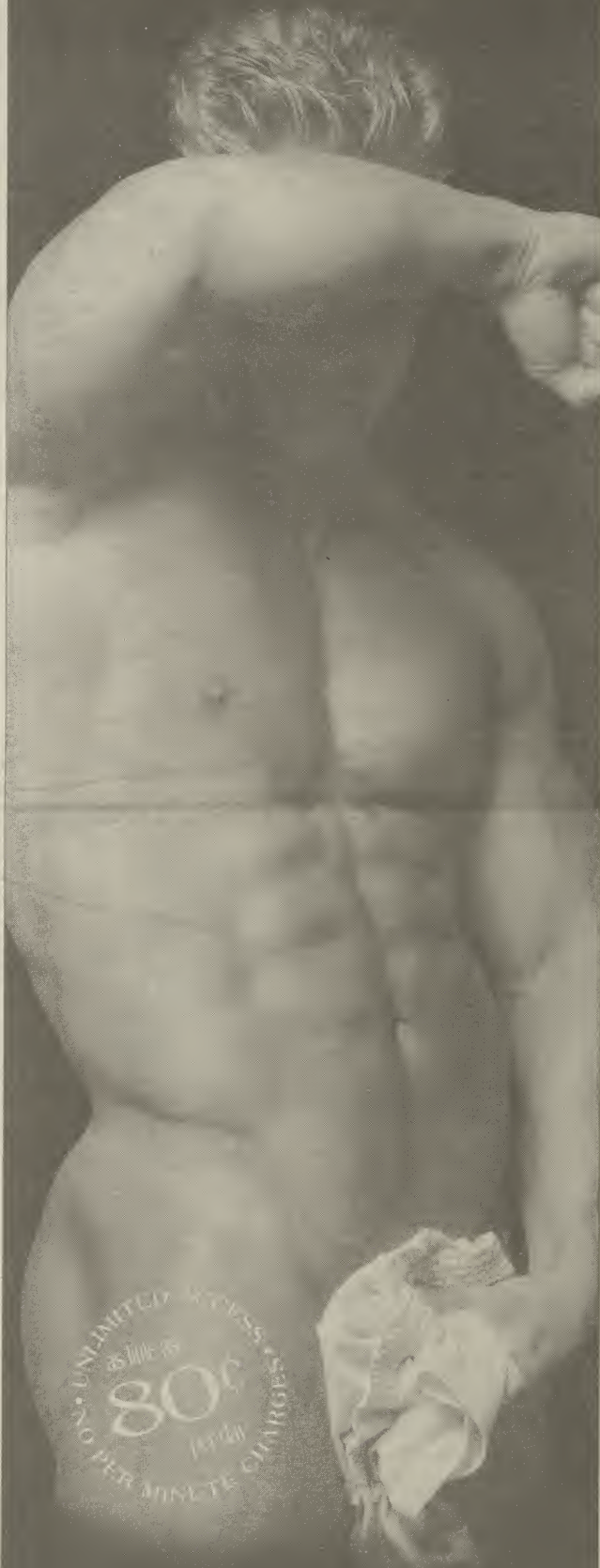
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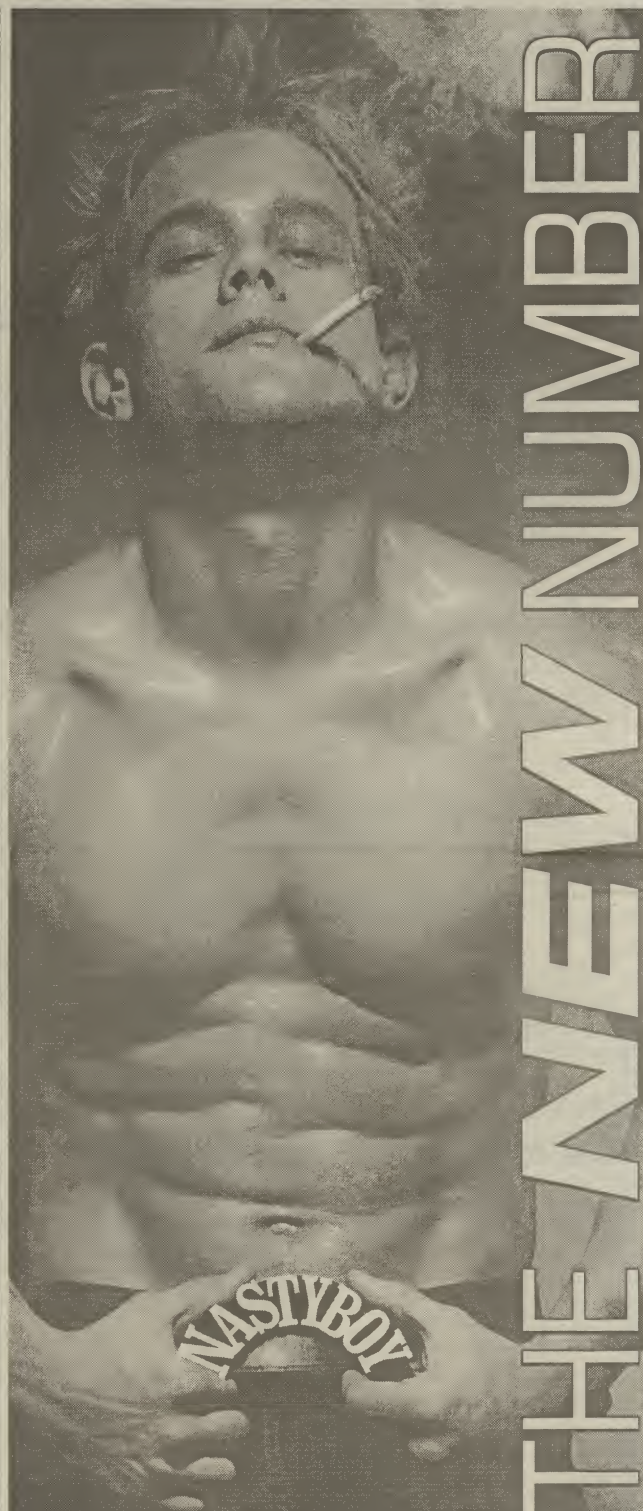
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